

Deborah Leipziger – Two Poems

The skin of the world

In one unwrapping
you peel the tangerine
into one long ribbon
uncoiling
unspooling
unsheathing
each segment of fruit
radiant
revealed in light
in rays
like an embryo

This is what I love
about you
what most scares me

your ability to unmask
reveal
lay bare

Self-Portrait in Countries

My countries open and close
Surround me with barricades and blockades
I hear the oceans parting the ice breaking
The leave taking the vibration of ice floes

Born under the southern cross under dictatorship
Tangled in the purple umbilical cord
I emerged under the mushroom cloud of grief
With a radar for wonder amidst colors birds belief

My heart balloons with the beauty of the world
My pores open my throat catches
I burst between my boundaries and borders
My body cut with line breaks hinges blades latches

I seek you out the colors of your bleeding beating into night
Your longing your garments of grief your circles of belonging

Deborah Leipziger is an award-winning poet, author, and advisor on sustainability. Her chapbook, *Flower Map*, was published by Finishing Line Press (2013). Two of her poems have been nominated for a Pushcart Prize. Born in Brazil, Ms. Leipziger is the author of several books on sustainability and human rights, some of which have been translated into Chinese, Korean and Portuguese. Her poems have been published in the UK, US, Canada, Mexico, Israel and the Netherlands, in such magazines and journals as *Revista Cardenal*, *Salamander*, *Lily Poetry Review* and *Nixes Mate*. She is the co-founder of *Soul-Lit*, an on-line poetry magazine. Her manuscript, *What is Home*, has been accepted for publication by Lily Poetry Review Books and is forthcoming in January, 2023.