

Gloria Mindock – Three Poems

Inhalation

Smoke is everywhere.
Down on the floor, I crawl.
Where is it coming from?
To be found out later...

Once outside, a fireman helps me.
Gives me an oxygen mask.
“Breathe slowly,” I’m told.

As I lie there in an ambulance,
I remember your words.
They caused an explosion, this fire.

Belongings are smoldering.
It was so harsh even a firehose could not
cool down the remains.
All left uncovered, exposed to the elements
frying.

Gravity

Dampness brings a chill to my body.
Bones aching, scraping against muscle.
A violin of permanence.
Noise giving birth.

With a clenched fist, can’t undo it.
I try to relax but gravity is about to
free me into space...
People will look at me day and night
and ask, “what is it?”

There is no control over what happens.
The cathedral is high and my freckles
fell on the floor as I left.
Paleness now, that no one sees, but in
the universe, I will be a prism.

Deeply

Helmet, dark eyes, dirty face
Firing, fierce bullets
hitting too much skin

Landscape, buildings flat
Sky gray
Home is doomed

Bleeding war into the earth
Hands remember, mind searches
Silence hurts, ventures into loss

Past is now, footsteps red

The world sleeps
rests
is tired

Sorrow heavy, sadness marches
into some splendor only imagined.

Gloria Mindock is the founding editor of Červená Barva Press and one of the USA editors for *Levure Litteraire* (France). She is the author of, *I Wish Francisco Franco Would Love Me* (Nixes Mate Books, 2018), *Whiteness of Bone* (Glass Lyre Press, 2016), *La Portile Raiului* (Ars Longa Press, Romania, 2010) translated into the Romanian by Flavia Cosma, *Nothing Divine Here*, (U Šoku Štampa., 2010), and *Blood Soaked Dresses* (Ibbetson, 2007). Widely published in the USA and abroad, her poetry has been translated and published into eight languages. Gloria has been awarded the Ibbetson Street Press Lifetime Achievement Award and was the recipient of the Allen Ginsberg Award for Community Service by the Newton Writing and Publishing Center. She was the Poet Laureate in Somerville, MA in 2017 & 2018.