

## **Michael Minassian** – Two Poems

### **The Librarian**

She arranges the books  
on the shelves  
by color and scent—  
blossoms and stems  
made of paper and glue.

At closing time,  
she speaks to them  
before turning  
off the lights,  
sometimes reciting  
whole passages—  
the words honey  
coated, swarming  
petals folding—  
a biology of bouquets  
and bindings.

How many books can we enter  
sensing the inner rhythms,  
the wings of words  
the grafting of thought—  
the librarian's kiss—  
her garden's fertile ground.

### **Postcard from The Bronx**

The front of the postcard  
holds a sepia toned photograph  
of a young married couple  
standing in front of their house;  
the sidewalk appears cracked,  
one edge lifting itself  
like the deck of a ship—  
the woman leans into her husband  
who has stopped smiling.

On the back of the card  
someone has written  
in cursive script using black ink:  
*past* and *future*  
two words we use  
to talk to ourselves.

**Michael Minassian** is a Contributing Editor for *Verse-Virtual*, an online magazine. His chapbooks include poetry: *The Arboriculturist* (2010); *Chuncheon Journal* (2019); and photography: *Around the Bend* (2017). For more information:  
<https://michaelminassian.com>