

Rain in Plural

Poems

FIONA SZE-LORRAIN

Rain in Plural is the much-anticipated fourth collection of poetry by Fiona Sze-Lorrain, who has been praised by *The Rumpus* as “a master of musicality and enlightening allusions.” In the wholly original world of these new poems, Sze-Lorrain addresses both private narratives and the overexposed discourse of the *polis*, using silence and montage, lyric and antilyric, to envision what she calls “creating between liberties.” With a moral precision embracing *us* without eschewing *I*, she rethinks questions of citizenship, the selections of sensory memory, and, by extension, the tether of word and image to the actual. She writes, “I accept the truth in newspapers / by holding the murder of my friends against my chest. // To each weather forecast I give thanks: / merci for every outdated // dusk/dawn.” Agrippina the Younger, Franz Kafka, Bob Dylan, a butoh performance, an unnamed Raku tea bowl—each has a place here. Made whole by time and its alteration in timelessness, synchrony, coincidences, and accidents, *Rain in Plural* beautifully reveals an elegiac yet ever-evolving inner life.

Fiona Sze-Lorrain is a poet, translator, editor, and zheng harpist. She is the author of three previous poetry collections, including *The Ruined Elegance* (Princeton), which was a finalist for the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize. She has also translated more than a dozen books of contemporary Chinese, French, and American poetry. She lives in Paris.

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POETRY



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The highly anticipated new collection from a poet whose previous book was a finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Prize

“Dazzling Fiona Sze-Lorrain refreshes our sense of time in her newest volume, the marvelously manifold *Rain in Plural*. Here, where the sea can be kept in a box, an airport has a skeleton and a nervous system, and both a wedding and heart surgery are scheduled ‘to put the past behind,’ she also transforms our sense of space. As if this poet were employing watercolor techniques, Sze-Lorrain builds up her drolly profound images. From ‘a favorite samurai’ to a dictator’s dog, in the brilliant polycultural world she conjures we’re suddenly everywhere at once, making *Rain in Plural* a book to absorb as one absorbs a vision.”

—Molly Peacock, author of *The Analyst: Poems* and *Cornucopia: New and Selected Poems*

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