

the blue pearl

Born in 1958, Anne Blonstein has lived since 1983 in Basel, Switzerland, where she earns a living as a freelance translator and editor. Her poems and prose poetry have appeared in journals and anthologies in the USA, Canada, Britain, Switzerland and Austria. She has published a chapbook, *sand.soda.lime*, and collaborated with the Swiss composer, Mela Meierhans, on two works, *canthus to canthus*, and *4S*.

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for charles lock

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“But to Helen, to fair Helen, the beautiful, the aesthetic, the very type and first occasion of representation, no voice can be given: throughout Western history, from Homer to *Omeros*, the representation of beauty depends on a central cavernous silence. In tongueless plastic sandals lurks an echo of many scandals.”

from Charles Lock: Derek Walcott's *Omeros*: Echoes from a White-throated Vase. *The Massachusetts Review* 2000; xli (1):28

the rock-that-gave-birth-to-the-sky

I

“hostage to the memories of. nectar
and necklaces. isolation and island nation.
hostile witness to forgetfulness, i am speaking
she is writing. the host to fusion of planes, a joy
light and compact”

“trail marked by sand”

“how to tell the stories
of the gifts, the points and the curious”

II

“bone”

“the metamorphosis of
deception as the appetite turns”

“to snakestone”

III

“alreadyness. falling into the eyes”

to describe it”

“remembering. refusing

“the cause and the barb.
tissue and value.
net in net”

IV

“if spoken four times”

“if summoned four times”

the fourth time”

“if sung

v

“ ”

“from stone time
to smuggled time”

“the curves return you to the polished”

“in static schemes
i know i languaged what i have spoken”

“so i began to take
the surface over the edges of a square”

“and i knew i have thought what i had spoken”

“a triangle holds something sacral.
frame picture. frame of vibrant extensions.
something ordered in chaos”

“frame of the bones
of bathing women. frame of pollen grains mixed with clay
water and sand. frame of oxidized silver”

“deep gray. of clouds hanging round
mountain peaks. their shadows that stroke
the snow”

VIII

“i have always thought it means something,
really gives and gets richer”

“i have always thought
it means, and what works like the empirical?”

“i have always thought it means that
she who chose chose very wide clothes”