



Yi Kyunglim

Three Poems

(translated by Wolhee Choe and Robert E. Hawks)

A Tilt

To fly, somersault,
spin, let small wings
slip and miss, enter
into black clouds and get out,
only to flutter blankly in the same place.

Give a quick smile, squeeze,
have a fit,
crash into a round jar,

a windswept treetop,
eyes poked by sunrays,
a haystack lost in thought.

Crows

I dreamt of a crow falling from high up in the sky.
Falling back asleep, I dreamt of two crows falling.
Falling asleep again I dreamt of three crows falling.
Four, five, six crows. . . . Till the street was covered with crows.
I fell asleep again and again and dreamt. Over the dead crows,
cars rode,
and people soaked in sweat. White and reddish peonies
bloomed and in a moment faded. I realized then that the crows
had blossomed as peonies and then faded. Someone whispered
spring has passed.

Women

A woman who became a carpet covers the floor.
Sitting on a woman who became a chair
in front of a woman who became a table
he reads a newspaper.
His coat hangs covering the skull of a coat rack woman.
A curtain woman stands holding folds.
A picture frame woman hangs holding an incomprehensible
mixture of colors on the wall.
A TV woman is turned on mumbling a blue streak.
A bookcase woman stands, books inside her
covered with dust, all their pages lined up.

He slowly stands up and goes to his bed woman, falls tumbling on
top of her, lying on the pillow woman, and covers himself with the
thin blanket woman. He lights a cigarette woman. He inhales her
burning red. The woman who became smoke scatters after whirling
in the air a bit. As if tired he turns off the lamp woman.

Out of his sleep walks a chair, table, bed, coat rack, curtain and
picture frame.

They become one woman. In front of the computer, the woman

starts the computer. Outside his sleep, at last, words twinkle. The
woman, the chair, the table, the carpet, the bed talk excitedly all
night.

Yi Kyunglim, born in South Korea, first began publishing poems in the prestigious Korean literary journal *Literature and Criticism*. Her publications include poetry and essay collections: *Looking for Connectives*, *Crossroads Even Here*, *A New Season Approaches: Devour It* (English translation by Wolhee Choe and Robert E. Hawks) and *Boxes*.

Wolhee Choe, professor emerita of humanities at Polytechnic Institute of New York University, is also co-translator of *Brief Songs of the Kisaeng: Courtesan Poetry of the Last Korean Dynasty*, *Day-Shine: Poems by Chong Hyun-jong* and *Windflower: Poems by Moon Chung-hee*.

Robert E. Hawks, executive director of Hawks Publishing and author of two chapbooks of poetry, is also co-translator of *Windflower: Poems by Moon Chung-hee*.