INTRODUCTION  17

PART I
THE PAST WE BRING WITH US

Ana Castillo  MY MOTHER’S MEXICO  25
Alicia Gaspar de Alba  FACING THE MARIACHIS  37
Sandra Benítez  FROM A PLACE WHERE THE SEA REMEMBERS  49
Cristina García  LOURDES PUENTE  57
Aurora Levins Morales  PUERTORICANNESS  69
Pat Mora  REMEMBERING LOBO  73
Patricia Preciado Martin  TIERRA A TIERRA  78
Patricia Blanco  ROSARIO MAGDALENO  89
Kathleen Ann González  THAT WAS LIVING  96
Arlene Mestas  HOW PANCHO WAS NEARLY LATE TO HIS OWN FUNERAL  107

PART II
OUR LAND, OUR LIVES

Judith Ortiz Cofer  TWIST AND SHOUT  115
Helena María Viramontes  MISS CLAIROL  119
Julia Alvarez  SNOW  126
Reid Gómez  FROM A NAME FOR CEBOLLA  129
Denise Chávez  GRAND SLAM  134
Lety Martínez González and Patricia Zárate  TWO LETTERS HOME  141
Sandra Cisneros  ONLY DAUGHTER  156
Achy Obejas  POLAROIDS  161
Linda Macías Feyder  MARTA DEL ANGEL  171
Marisella Veiga  FRESH FRUIT  179
Mary Helen Ponce  JUST DESSERT  184
Monica Palacios  PERSONALITY FABULOSA  199

PART III
NUESTRA POLITICA

Cherríe Moraga  ART IN AMERICA CON ACENTO  210
Margarita Engle  FROM SINGING TO CUBA  221
Inés Hernández-Avila  ENEDINA'S STORY  228
Lucha Corpi  EPIPHANY THE THIRD GIFT  240
Gloria Anzaldúa  FROM BORDERLANDS/ LA FRONTERA THE NEW MESTIZA  250
Contents

Esmeralda Santiago  FROM WHEN I WAS PUERTO RICAN  257
Graciela Limón  FROM IN SEARCH OF BERNABE  264
Demetria Martínez  FROM MOTHERTONGUE  273
Alma Luz Villanueva  PLACE OF THE DEAD  280