CONTENTS

xvii  Preface

CONTEMPORARY PERIOD:  
1945 TO THE PRESENT  

1887  Earlier Generations: Cold War Culture 
and Its Discontents

1891  Ann Petry (1908–1997)
1892  The Witness
1904  Theodore Roethke (1908–1963)
1905  Frau Bauman, Frau Schmidt, and Frau Schwartze
1906  Root Cellar
1907  Big Wind
1908  from The Lost Son
1908  1. The Flight
1909  4. The Return
1910  5. It was beginning winter
1911  from Meditations of an Old Woman
1911  First Meditation
1914  from Fourth Meditation
1916  Elegy
1916  My Papa's Waltz
1917  Eudora Welty (1909–2002)
1919  The Wide Net
1934  Charles Olson (1910–1970)
1936  The Kingfishers
1943  For Sappho, Back
1946  I, Maximus of Gloucester, to You
1950  Maximus, to himself
1952  Elizabeth Bishop (1911–1979)
1954  The Fish
vi • Contents

1956  The Man-Moth
1957  At the Fishhouses
1959  Filling Station
1960  Tennessee Williams (1911–1983)
1962  Portrait of a Madonna
1971  Tillie Lerner Olsen (b. 1913)
1972  Tell Me a Riddle
1999  Absalom
2001  The Minotaur
2002  Rite
2003  The Poem as Mask
2003  Martin Luther King, Malcolm X
2004  How We Did It
2005  Carlos Bulosan (1913–1956)
2006  from America Is in the Heart
2006  from Chapter XIII
2009  from Chapter XIV
2013  Robert Hayden (1913–1980)
2014  Tour 5
2014  Those Winter Sundays
2015  Summertime and the Living . . .
2016  Mourning Poem for the Queen of Sunday
2017  Bernard Malamud (1914–1986)
2018  The Magic Barrel
2030  Ralph Waldo Ellison (1914–1994)
2031  A Party Down at the Square
2036  Flying Home
2049  Brave Words for a Startling Occasion
2051  Arthur Miller (b. 1915)
2053  The Crucible
2126  Saul Bellow (b. 1915)
2127  Looking for Mr. Green
2142  Gwendolyn Brooks (1917–2000)
2143  The Sundays of Satin-Legs Smith
2147  The Mother
2148  We Real Cool
2149  A Bronzeville Mother Loiters in Mississippi. Meanwhile, a Mississippi Mother Burns Bacon
2152 The Last Quatrain of the Ballad of Emmett Till
2153 Ulysses
2154 Robert Lowell, Jr. (1917–1977)
2155 Memories of West Street and Lepke
2156 Skunk Hour
2158 For Theodore Roethke
2158 For the Union Dead
2161 Near the Ocean
2162 Hisaye Yamamoto (b. 1921)
2164 Seventeen Syllables
2172 Grace Paley (b. 1922)
2173 The Expensive Moment
2181 John Okada (1923–1971)
2183 from No-No Boy
2183 Chapter 6
2193 James Baldwin (1924–1987)
2194 Sonny’s Blues
2216 Flannery O’Connor (1925–1964)
2217 A Good Man Is Hard to Find

2229 A Sheaf of Poetry and Prose from the Beat Movement

2229 Allen Ginsberg (1926–1997)
2231 A Supermarket in California
2232 Howl
2240 America
2243 Jack Kerouac (1922–1969)
2245 The Vanishing American Hobo
2251 Lawrence Ferlinghetti (b. 1919)
2252 I Am Waiting
2256 Dove Sta Amore . . .
2256 The Old Italians Dying
2259 Brenda (Bonnie) Frazer (b. 1939)
2260 from Troia: Mexican Memoirs
2262 Joyce Johnson (b. 1934)
2263 from Door Wide Open
2265 from Minor Characters
contents

Gary Snyder (b. 1930)
Riprap
Vapor Trails
Wave
It Was When

Malcolm X (1925–1965)
from The Autobiography of Malcolm X
from Chapter 19, 1965

Robert Creeley (b. 1926)
Hart Crane
I Know a Man
For Love
Words
America

Frank O'Hara (1926–1966)
My Heart
The Day Lady Died
Why I Am Not a Painter
Poem

John Ashbery (b. 1927)
The Instruction Manual
Farm Implements and Rutabagas in a Landscape
As You Came from the Holy Land

Cynthia Ozick (b. 1928)
The Shawl

Edward Albee (b. 1928)
The Sand Box

Anne Sexton (1928–1974)
Her Kind
Housewife
Young
Somewhere in Africa

Paule Marshall (b. 1929)
To Da-Duh, in Memoriam

Adrienne Rich (b. 1929)
Diving into the Wreck
From a Survivor
Power
Not Somewhere Else, but Here
Coast to Coast
Frame
Sylvia Plath (1932–1963)
For a Fatherless Son
Daddy
Lady Lazarus
Stings
Fever 103°
Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929–1968)
I Have a Dream

New Generations: Postmodernity and Difference
Rolando Hinojosa-Smith (b. 1929)
Sometimes It Just Happens That Way; That’s All
John Barth (b. 1930)
Lost in the Funhouse

A Sheaf of Vietnam Conflict Poetry and Prose
Michael Herr (b. 1940)
from Dispatches
Tim O’Brien (b. 1946)
In the Field
Norman Mailer (b. 1923)
from The Armies of the Night
Robert Bly (b. 1926)
Counting Small-Boned Bodies
The Teeth Mother Naked at Last
Yusef Komunyakaa (b. 1947)
Tu Do Street
Prisoners
Thanks
Facing It
Fog Galleon
Denise Levertov (1923–1997)
Illustrious Ancestors
2427  A Solitude
2429  Making Peace
2430  A Woman Alone
2431  The May Mornings

2432  Donald Barthelme (1931–1989)
2433  At the End of the Mechanical Age

2437  Toni Morrison (b. 1931)
2438  Recitatif

2451  John Updike (b. 1932)
2453  Trust Me

2458  Ernest J. Gaines (b. 1933)
2459  The Sky Is Gray

2479  N. Scott Momaday (Kiowa) (b. 1934)
2480  from The Way To Rainy Mountain
2480  Headwaters
2481  Prologue
2482  From the Introduction
2484  IV
2485  XVI
2486  XVII
2487  XXIV
2487  Epilogue
2489  Rainy Mountain Cemetery

2489  Audre Lorde (1934–1992)
2490  Power
2492  Walking Our Boundaries
2493  Never Take Fire from a Woman
2493  The Art of Response
2494  Stations
2496  The Master's Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master's House

2498  Amiri Baraka (LeRoi Jones) (b. 1934)
2499  An Agony. As now.
2501  Ka 'Ba
2501  Black People: This Is Our Destiny
2502  A Poem Some People Will Have to Understand
2503  Numbers, Letters
2504  Dutchman

2525  Sonia Sanchez (b. 1934)
2526  to blk/record/buyers
2526  Masks
2528  Just Don’t Never Give Up on Love
2530  A Letter to Dr. Martin Luther King
2532  Father and Daughter
2533  Tomas Rivera (1935–1984)
2534  from ... y no se lo tragó la tierra/And the Earth Did Not Devour Him
2541  Lucille Clifton (b. 1936)
2542  the thirty eighth year
2544  i am accused of tending to the past
2544  at the cemetery, walnut grove plantation, south carolina, 1989
2545  reply
2546  in white america
2548  June Jordan (b. 1936)
2550  Poem About My Rights
2552  To Free Nelson Mandela
2554  Moving Towards Home
2556  Rudolfo A. Anaya (b. 1937)
2558  from Bless Me, Ultima
2558  Dieciocho
2566  Thomas Pynchon (b. 1937)
2568  Entropy
2577  Nicholasa Mohr (b. 1938)
2578  from Rituals of Survival
2585  Raymond Carver (1938–1988)
2586  from Cathedral
2586  A Small Good Thing
2601  Lawson Fusao Inada (b. 1938)
2603  Instructions to All Persons
2605  Two Variations on a Theme by Thelonius Monk as Inspired by Mal Waldron
2605  Introduction: Monk’s Prosody
2606  I. Blue Monk (linear)
2610  II. Blue Monk (percussive)
2610  Kicking the Habit
2613  On Being Asian American
2614  Michael S. Harper (b. 1938)
2615  Song: I Want a Witness
2615  Nightmare Begins Responsibility
2616  Here Where Coltrane Is
2617  A Narrative of the Life and Times of John Coltrane: Played by Himself
2618  Camp Story
Joyce Carol Oates (b. 1938)
Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?

Ishmael Reed (b. 1938)
I am a cowboy in the boat of Ra
Flight to Canada

Toni Cade Bambara (1939–1995)
The Lesson

Frank Chin (b. 1940)
Railroad Standard Time

Etheridge Knight (1931–1991)
The Idea of Ancestry
The Violent Space (or when your sister sleeps around for money)
Ilu, the Talking Drum
A Poem for Myself (or Blues for a Mississippi Black Boy)

Jimmy Santiago Baca (b. 1952)
I've Taken Risks
I Put on My Jacket
Commitment
Ghost Reading in Sacramento

Kathy Boudin (b. 1943)
The Call
Our Skirt
A Trilogy of Journeys

Leonard Peltier (b. 1944)
from Prison Writings

Judee Norton (b. 1949)
Norton #59900

James Welch (Blackfeet-Gros Ventre) (b. 1940)
from Winter in the Blood

Bharati Mukherjee (b. 1940)
A Wife’s Story

Maxine Hong Kingston (b. 1940)
No Name Woman
Bobbie Ann Mason (b. 1940)

Simon Ortiz (Acoma Pueblo) (b. 1941)

John Edgar Wideman (b. 1941)

Gloria Anzaldúa (1942–2004)

Janice Mirikitani (b. 1942)

Pat Mora (b. 1942)

James Alan McPherson (b. 1943)

Lee Smith (b. 1944)

Pedro Pietri (1944–2004)

Richard Rodriguez (b. 1944)

Alice Walker (b. 1944)

Leslie Marmon Silko (Laguna) (b. 1948)

Wendy Rose (Hopi) (b. 1948)
Sandra Maria Esteves (b. 1948) and Luz María Umpierre (b. 1947): A Poetry Exchange
A la Mujer Borinquena (Esteves)
In Response (Umpierre)
So Your Name Isn't Maria Cristina (Esteves)
Music d'Orsay (Umpierre)
Jessica Hagedorn (b. 1949)
The Blossoming of BongBong
The Death of Anna May Wong
Filipino Boogie
Homesick
Vulva Operetta
Dorothy Allison (b. 1949)
Don't Tell Me You Don't Know
Victor Hernandez Cruz (b. 1949)
urban dream
Mountain Building
Table of Contents
Carolyn Forché (b. 1950)
from The Country Between Us
The Colonel
Because One Is Always Forgotten
As Children Together
from The Recording Angel
Elegy
Paula Vogel (b. 1951)
How I Learned to Drive
Karen Tei Yamashita (b. 1951)
from Tropic of Orange
2. Benefits — Koreatown
Garrett Kaoru Hongo (b. 1951)
Yellow Light
Off from Swing Shift
Who Among You Knows the Essence of Garlic?
And Your Soul Shall Dance
The Unreal Dwelling: My Years in Volcano
Joy Harjo (Creek) (b. 1951)
The Woman Hanging from the Thirteenth Floor Window
New Orleans
Remember
Vision
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author/Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2956</td>
<td>Anchorage</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2957</td>
<td>Deer Dancer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2959</td>
<td>We Must Call a Meeting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2960</td>
<td><strong>Tato Laveria (b. 1951)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2961</td>
<td>frío</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2962</td>
<td>AmeRícan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2964</td>
<td>Latero Story</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2966</td>
<td><strong>Judith Ortiz Cofer (b. 1952)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2967</td>
<td>Claims</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2968</td>
<td>The Woman Who Was Left at the Altar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2968</td>
<td>My Father in the Navy: A Childhood Memory</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2969</td>
<td>En Mis Ojos No Hay Días</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2970</td>
<td>Latin Women Pray</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2970</td>
<td><strong>Rita Dove (b. 1952)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2971</td>
<td>Kentucky, 1833</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2972</td>
<td>Ö</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2972</td>
<td>Daystar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2973</td>
<td>The Oriental Ballerina</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2975</td>
<td><strong>Naomi Shihab Nye (b. 1952)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2976</td>
<td>Ducks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2977</td>
<td>Different Ways to Pray</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2978</td>
<td>My Father and the Figtree</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2979</td>
<td>Blood</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2980</td>
<td>Where the Soft Air Lives</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2983</td>
<td><strong>Gary Soto (b. 1952)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2984</td>
<td>Braly Street</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2986</td>
<td>The Cellar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2987</td>
<td>Mexicans Begin Jogging</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2988</td>
<td>Black Hair</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2988</td>
<td>Kearney Park</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2989</td>
<td><strong>Rane Arroyo (b. 1953)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2990</td>
<td>My Transvestite Uncle Is Missing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2991</td>
<td>Caribbean Braille</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2992</td>
<td>Write What You Know</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2995</td>
<td>That Flag</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2995</td>
<td><strong>Louise Erdrich (b. 1954)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2997</td>
<td><em>from</em> Love Medicine</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2997</td>
<td>Saint Marie (1934)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3006</td>
<td><strong>Lorna Dee Cervantes (b. 1954)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3007</td>
<td>Beneath the Shadow of the Freeway</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3010 Poem for the Young White Man Who Asked Me How I, an Intelligent, Well-Read Person Could Believe in the War Between Races

3011 Macho

3012 Bananas

3015 Helen María Viramontes (b. 1954)
3017 The Cariboo Café

3026 Aurora Levins Morales (b. 1954)
3027 Child of the Americas
3028 Puertoricanss
3030 Heart of My Heart, Bone of My Bone

3031 Sandra Cisneros (b. 1954)
3033 Eleven

3035 Gish Jen (b. 1955)
3036 In the American Society

3046 Kimiko Hahn (b. 1955)
3047 Strands
3049 Resistance: A Poem on Ikat Cloth
3057 Cuttings

3063 Li-Young Lee (b. 1957)
3064 I Ask My Mother to Sing
3065 My Father, in Heaven, Is Reading Out Loud
3066 With Ruins
3066 This Room and Everything in It

3068 David Foster Wallace (b. 1962)
3069 The Devil Is a Busy Man

3071 Chang-Rae Lee (b. 1965)
3072 Coming Home Again

3079 Sherman Alexie (b. 1966)
3081 Because My Father Always Said He Was the Only Indian Who Saw Jimi Hendrix Play “The Star Spangled Banner” at Woodstock

3086 Edwidge Danticat (b. 1969)
3088 New York Day Women

3091 Minh Duc Nguyen
3093 Tale of Apricot

A-1 Acknowledgments

I-1 Index of Authors, Titles, and First Lines of Poems