REFLECTIONS

An Anthology of New Work by African Women Poets

edited by
Anthonia C. Kalu
Juliana Makuchi Nfah-Abbenyi
Omofolabo Ajayi-Soyinka
Contents

Introduction xiii

NORTH AFRICA

Egypt
Nadia Z. Bishai
Stardust 3
Blazing in Deserts 3

Tunisia
Lamia Ben Youssef Zayzafoon
Milk of the Ogre 4
The Beautiful Widow of the Green Mountain 9

CENTRAL AND EAST AFRICA

Gabon
Jasmine Ntoutoume
Noises in the Blood 15

Edna Merey Apinda
The Secret of the Night 17
Little Does It Matter 18
Contents

Kenya
Imali J. Abala
  Freedom Shall Be Ours 20
  The Conundrum of My Life 21

Arecau
  A New Moon 22
  A Minor Death 23
  You, and Your Four Loved Ones 23

Bonita Belle
  God Helps Those Who Help Themselves 26

Rose Wanjiru Busolo
  Sometimes I Wonder 27

Anastacia Kamau
  Mmh! People 28

Njeri Kang’ethe
  Between My Legs 29
  Weep Not Mama Afrika 33

Serah Mbatia
  Giriama Peasant Woman 35

Lenah Mukoya
  Drums and Sticks 36

Connie Mutua
  Harambee 37

Sitawa Namwalie
  Eh, Kumbe I’m Poor! 39

Mercy Ngigi
  The First Cock Just Crowed 42

Wandia Njoiya
  An Email for Antonio Jacinto 44
  So 46
Marjorie Oludhe-Macgoye
  Diggings 48
  Keeping Up with the Times 49

Sarah Navalayo Osembo
  When Daddy Had an Affair 52

Rwanda
Mimi Harriet Uwineza
  Dear Fire 54

Tanzania
Sandra A. Mushi
  Reflections 55

Clara C. Swai
  “Happy New Year!!!” 56

Uganda
Monica Dorothy Aciru
  Why Delay the Inevitable? 57

Susan Nalugwa Kiguli
  Guilty 59
  To War Mongers Everywhere 61

Harriet Naboro
  Leave Me Alone 62

Patience Nitumwesiga
  Created Woman 63

Beverley Nambozo Nsengiyunva
  Microwave 66
  I Will Never Be You 67

Jemeo Nyonjo
  But the Rains Have Refused to Come 68
  The Clinic 69
Jennifer A. Okech  
I Say No More!  

Hilda Twongyeirwe Rutagonya  
Sometimes  
I Hear Your Voice Mama  

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Botswana  
Cheshe Dow  
Prologues  
Untitled 1  
Untitled 2  

Namibia  
Monica Mweliya Nambelela  
My Child’s Child  

South Africa  
Nicole Elisha Hartzenberg  
The Cats Snarl  

Nosipho Kota  
Toxic Love  

Bernedette Muthien  
Once in Afrika  

Makhosazana Xaba  
Preparing for a Dinner Party  
Gifts to the Sea  
Wondering  

Zambia  
Chiseche Salome Mibenge  
$55 from Q St. to Washington Dulles on Memorial Day
Zimbabwe
Isabella Jeso
Memorials of Our Redemption: An Epic Poem of Zimbabwe 87

WEST AFRICA

Burkina Faso
Nathalie Hoblebou Ouandaogo/Rouamba
In Honor of Child Soldiers 95
Poem: Bitterness 96

Cameroon
Joyce Ashuntantang
Incantation 97
Birth-Day 98

Lydia E. Epangué
First Snow in Africa 99
Mamazon 100

Thérèse Kuoh-Moukoury
The Lost Throne 101
Dance 102
African Art 103

Makuchi
Invisible 105
American Dream 108

Frida Menkan Mbunda-Nekang
Oral Tradition 110
My Mother 110

Rosalyn Mutia
Ode to Feminist Criticism 111

Pat T. Nkweteyim
I Celebrate Me 112
They Carne 113
Ghana
Epifania Akosua Amoo-Adare
In(ner) City

Nana Nyarko Boateng
Abolition of Childhood

Nigeria
Toyin Adewale-Gabriel
Sister Cry

Oghomwensemwen Aimie Adeyinka-Edward
Immigration
The Fear of Broken Dishes

Akachi Adimora-Ezeigbo
Flint

Omofolabo Ajayi-Soyinka
The Code of Exile
My Christmas Wish List

Umma Aliyu Musa
World Genocide

Temitope Azeez-Stephen
Funeral Theme

Unoma Azuah
Umunede: Molding Memories

T. Mojisola Bakare
Dreams from a Kitchen
Not a Slave

Damilola Balogun
Freedom Farce

Love Chioma Enwerem
Will Long Be Gone
They Call It Hurricane
Nora Omoverere Gbagi
Echoes of Hardship 143

Nnenna May George-Kalu
The Divide 144

Folake Idowu
Away from Home 146

Dinah Ishaku
The Baring Days 148

Anthonia C. Kalu
Distribution of Wealth 149
Without Strife 150

Naomi Lucas
Trading Places 152

Kate Mshelia
Vanity 154

Emmanuella Nduonofit
It’s All About “Her” . . . 155

Adora Neboh
Loss of Glory 158

Ifeyinwa Genevieve Okolo
Just a Little Cut 160
Wedding Night 161

H. Obiageli Okolocha
Prisoners, Us 163

Ify Omalicha
You Came at Sunrise 164

Yewande Omotoso
The Trains 165

Olajumoke Verissimo
Divorcee 167
| Appendix: Poems as Written in Their Original Languages | 169 |
| Biographical Notes | 177 |
| Author Index | 191 |
| About the Book | 193 |