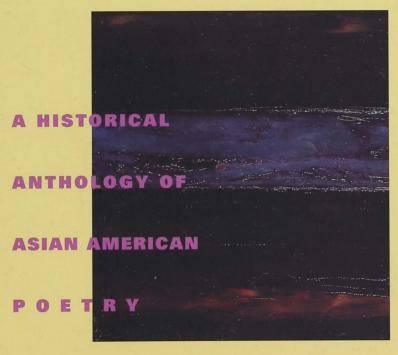


QUIET FIRE





1892-1970

EDITED BY
JULIANA CHANG

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Quiet Fire

A Historical
Anthology of
Asian American
Poetry
1892-1970

QUIET FIRE: A HISTORICAL ANTHOLOGY OF ASIAN AMERICAN POETRY 1892-1970

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FOR MY PARENTS,

Victor Fong-Shou Chang &

Mary Mei-Lee Chu Chang

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They are Burning

Pitch black up the valley in front of us twenty miles they are burning the mountains down the sky is that kind of orange the hillsides are outlined to us in just that orange horizon which will be gone with daybreak when the smoke of their burning hangs ove rthe valleys rivers and trees drifts slowly on the contours of the land and the deadness where no birds fly.

Yes they are burning for it is July and August and the nights with no wind the darkness is cool.

What I thought would be there is not I'm sorry to say. What I had expected was to sleep for the ride with eyes closed not drive into a burning mountainside.

1965

Mountain

Mountain come over me in my youth
green grey orange of colored dreams
darkest hours of no distance
Mountain full of creeks ravines of rock
and pasture meadow snow white ridges humps of granite
ice springs trails twigs stumps sticks leaves moss
shit of bear deer balls rabbit shit
shifts and cracks of glaciation mineral
O Mountain hung over me in these years of fiery desire
burns on your sides your many crotches rocked
and treed in silence from the winds
Mountain many voices nameless curves and pocked in shadows
not wild but smooth

your instant flats flat walls of rock
your troughs of shale and bits
soft summer glacier snow

the melting edge of rounded stone and cutting of your height the clouds a jagged blue

your nights your nights alone
your winds your grass
your lying slopes your holes your traps
quick blurs of all my dreams

Mountain poem of life

true and real

reeling Mountain burning mind stand word stand letter

voice in whisper secret repeating cries
stand in rock stretch out
in all ways to the timber line
spread over all valleys run cool the waters down
from luminous white snows

your cracks

O creek song flow always an utter pure of coolness spring from the rocks
sing in the hot thirsty my sticky tongue
my jaw catch below the bridge
Yes my jaw for your waters hangs
catch of water soothe the sweat
sweet cold on teeth in flow and eddy
in swirl my gut it fills and bloats with fluid mountain

QUIET FIRE

A Historical Anthology of Asian American Poetry 1892–1970 Juliana Chang, Editor

his landmark anthology provides the first historical survey of Asian American poetry. The poems were selected to reflect both the high quality and wide range of Asian American poetic discourse. The anthology begins with writings from the 1890's by Sadakichi Hartmann and Yone Noguchi, and includes poems by Jun Fujita (1923), Bunishi Kagawa (1930), Hisaye Yamamoto (1940), Diana Chang (1946), and others. Early work by well-known writers Joy Kogawa, Jessica Hagedorn, and Lawson Inada are also represented. Essays by Fay Chiang, Eric Chock, Alan Chong Lau, Kimiko Hahn, and Gerry Shikatani give an overview of regional Asian American poetry scenes from the 1970's through the 1990's and the editor provides a complete bibliography of published volumes of Asian American poetry. An important source-book, Quiet Fire makes a significant contribution to the remapping of American poetry and Asian American literature.

Juliana Chang is Assistant Professor of English at Boston College and is currently working on a book-length study of Asian American poetry.

Cover and book design by Wendy Lee Cover art by Daviko Marcel

