

YAN LI

Reality

I am not capable of
penning the caged birds onto
the branches of the trees
that dance outside the window
The birds that have lost survival skills
only wish me to
pen the size of the cage larger

2019.12.

现实

我没能力
把笼中鸟都写到窗外的
树枝上去
那些已丧失了觅食能力的鸟
只希望
我把笼子的尺寸写写大

2019.12.

Adding Fuel

Above the chimney
a smoke hauled by the wind
makes the hut seem to move
against the wind on the earth
It is similar to the way of how I discern our life
Yet the era
has been continually adding fuel
into the hearth of my head

2020.11

添煤

烟囱上
一缕被风拉弯的炊烟
使小屋好像在
大地上逆风行驶
它与我思辨人生的现象
很相似
而时代
还在往我脑门的炉灶里
添煤

2020.11

Booze

Alcohol doesn't care who's drinking it
as long as one progresses at the habit of
measuring one's behavior while being drunk
Since becoming friends with the alcohol culture
I don't want to be grounded
in this self-indulgence only at home
The world needs
more people toasting for peace
to come forward
since alcohol culture
can pull itself out of the overflowing commodities
Then let's keep clinking and toasting
Listen to pleasures of life and dreams
from each one's increasing voice
And also listen to
how words with added degrees can be cocktailed into
a booming and imposing poem
At that time
whether alcohol is good or not—
let the conscience and cultivation of the drinker
grasp it

2020.10.

Translated from the Chinese by Anna Yin