

Skyline Review

Stephanie Sears

Transatlantic Crossing

You no longer sought the limits of a single color,
The eye sore with horizon.
Purpose was drawn to a lamp's glow
In a bar's leathery penumbra,
The undeniable blue recalled in urceolate spaces
Floating on the ocean's indifferent hump.
The glint of liquor bottles reflected in a mirror
Opposed a porthole's pelagic spray
With outlandish luxury.
People walked on water in black tie and organdy,
Keeping civilization afloat: a subtle trip.
The world of adults and children was reversed.
The first quietly played at games,
The second held suicidal binges,
Calculated trajectories and laws of gravity
In the long cabin corridors.

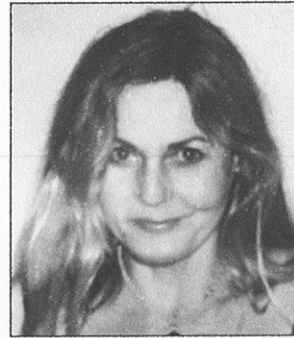
There was an intermediate period
Where all clung like mussels to the hull,
Unwilling to be pried free
Until the city's jagged reef appeared,
Shrilly shouting on the wind
Liberty and wealth,
Its brutal romance high and tight with sky,
Yet here life was saying:
Forget how empty the world can be,
How thoughts at sea hit dangerous lows of self-esteem.

"Reach for the Sky"

The sequence of events is jumbled from here.
You are small, not fond of logic.
Incoherence has still the charm of an efficient spell
Though sometimes it leaves you out.

The ship comes to dock
Pushing water aside with a wave.
A cabin's white sheets and lacquered sides
Collide with the urban fury
And grandmother's large bandaged knees.
Night lights string across her limousine windows,
Cajole you with bedtime safety
While traffic echoes off the steel elevated
With hints of inevitable maturity.
Thank God a sudden breath of ocean
Runs through the city,
Discarding the excessive welcome.
Escape is still an option.

Stephanie Sears, Ph.D in social anthropology- Polynesian Studies, from the University of Paris/ Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales. Having lived and worked in Paris, Hong Kong, New York, the Marquesas islands, Boston, Barcelona she now lives in Verona, Italy where she writes as a freelance journalist. Her poetry has been published in *Coe Review*, *Riversedge*, *The Long Island Quarterly*, *California Quarterly*, *The Amherst Review*, *ArtWord Quarterly*, *The Hudson View*, *Poetry Salzburg*, *Inclement*, *Word Catalyst*, *Convergence*, *Haggard and Halloo*, *Iodine*.



2010 Pushcart Prize Nominee