CONTENTS

PREFACE XIX

CONTEMPORARY PERIOD: 1945 TO THE PRESENT

2679

THE LATE 1940s AND 1950s: VICTORY CULTURE 2683

HISAYE YAMAMOTO (1921–2011) 2688

Seventeen Syllables 2689

ELIZABETH BISHOP (1911-1979) 2699

The Fish 2701
The Man-Moth 2703
At the Fishhouses 2704
Filling Station 2706

THEODORE ROETHKE (1908-1963) 2707

Frau Bauman, Frau Schmidt, and Frau Schwartze 2709 Root Cellar 2710 Big Wind 2710 My Papa's Waltz 2711 Elegy 2711

RALPH ELLISON (1914–1994) 2712

A Party Down at the Square 2714
Flying Home 2719
Brave Words for a Startling Occasion 2733

JOHN CHEEVER (1912-1982) 2736

The Enormous Radio 2737

SAUL BELLOW (1915-2005) 2745

Looking for Mr. Green 2747

CHARLES OLSON (1910–1970) 2763

For Sappho, Back 2765
I, Maximus of Gloucester, to You 2767
Maximus, to Himself 2771

FLANNERY O'CONNOR (1925-1964) 2773

A Good Man Is Hard to Find 2775

BIENVENIDO N. SANTOS (1911-1996) 2787

Scent of Apples 2788

TILLIE LERNER OLSEN (1913–2007) 2794

O Yes 2795

BERNARD MALAMUD (1914–1986) 2807

The Magic Barrel 2809

ARTHUR MILLER (1915-2005) 2821

A View from the Bridge 2823

GWENDOLYN BROOKS (1917–2000)

The Sundays of Satin-Legs Smith 2873

The Mother 2877

We Real Cool 2878

A Bronzeville Mother Loiters in Mississippi. Meanwhile,

a Mississippi Mother Burns Bacon 2878

The Last Quatrain of the Ballad of Emmett Till 2882

Ulysses 2882

MITSUYE YAMADA (B. 1923) 2883

Evacuation 2884

Desert Storm 2885

Inside News 2885

The Question of Loyalty 2886

The Night before Good-Bye 2886

Thirty Years Under 2887

Cincinnati 2887

To the Lady 2888

JAMES BALDWIN (1924–1987)

Sonny's Blues 2891

PHILIP ROTH (B. 1933) 2915

You Can't Tell a Man by the Song He Sings

TENNESSEE WILLIAMS (1911–1983)

Suddenly Last Summer 2925

IN FOCUS

The Beat Movement 2960

HANNEY COURSE FREE FREE PROBLEM

A Condition in Particulation A 2004

STATE OF PERSONAL INCOMENSES

ALLEN GINSBERG (1926-1997) 2960

A Supermarket in California 2962

Howl 2963

America 2972

JACK KEROUAC (1922–1969) 2974

The Vanishing American Hobo 2976

from Mexico City Blues 2983

43rd Chorus 2983

211th Chorus 2983

3011

LAWRENCE FERLINGHETTI (B. 1919) 2984

from I Am Waiting 2985

Dove Sta Amore ... 2989

The Old Italians Dying 2989

BRENDA (BONNIE) FRAZER (B. 1939) 2992

from Troia: Mexican Memoirs 2993

JOYCE JOHNSON (B. 1934) 2996

from Door Wide Open 2997 from Minor Characters 2998

GARY SNYDER (B. 1930) 3001

from Riprap 3003 Vapor Trails 3004 Wave 3004 It Was When 3005

ALBERT SAIJO (1926-2011) 3006

Bodhisattva Vows 3007

from Trip Trap (with Lew Welch and Jack Kerouac) 3008

from The Backpacker 3009



THE 1960s: POSTMODERNISM AND OTHER VIOLENT CHANGES

ROBERT LOWELL, JR. (1917–1977) 3013

Skunk Hour 3014
For Theodore Roethke 3016
For the Union Dead 3016
Near the Ocean 3018

THOMAS PYNCHON (B. 1937) 3020

Entropy 3022

ROBERT CREELEY (1926–2005) 3032

Hart Crane 3033 I Know a Man 3035 For Love 3035 Words 3037 America 3038

Frank O'Hara (1926–1966) 3039

My Heart 3040 The Day Lady Died 3041 Why I Am Not a Painter 3042 Poem 3043

ROBERT HAYDEN (1913-1980) 3043

Those Winter Sundays 3045

Summertime and the Living ... 3045 Mourning Poem for the Queen of Sunday 3046

ANNE SEXTON (1928-1974) 3047

Her Kind 3048 Housewife 3049 Young 3049 Somewhere in Africa 3050

SYLVIA PLATH (1932-1963) 3051

For a Fatherless Son 3052 Daddy 3053 Lady Lazarus 3055

Kurt Vonnegut (1922-2007) 3058

Harrison Bergeron 3059

JOHN ASHBERY (B. 1927) 3064

The Instruction Manual 3065
Farm Implements and Rutabagas in a Landscape 3068
As You Came from the Holy Land 3069

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. (1929-1968) 3071

I Have a Dream 3072 Letter from Birmingham Jail 3075

MALCOLM X (1925-1965) 3088

from The Autobiography of Malcolm X 3089 from Chapter 19: 1965 3089

AMIRI BARAKA (LEROI JONES) (B. 1934) 3095

An Agony. As Now. 3096
Ka 'Ba 3097
Black People: This Is Our Destiny 3098
A Poem Some People Will Have to Understand 3099
Numbers, Letters 3099
Dutchman 3101

JOYCE CAROL OATES (B. 1938) 3120

Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been? 3122

Luís VALDEZ (B. 1940) 3135

Los Vendidos 3137

JOHN BARTH (B. 1930) 3145

Lost in the Funhouse 3146

IN FOCUS

The U.S. War in Vietnam and Its Aftermath 3164

. . . .

MICHAEL HERR (B. 1940) 3164 from Dispatches 3165 TIM O'BRIEN (B. 1946) 3174 In the Field 3175

NORMAN MAILER (1923–2007) 3184 from The Armies of the Night 3185

ROBERT BLY (B. 1926) 3197

Counting Small-Boned Bodies 3198
The Teeth Mother Naked at Last 3199

YUSEF KOMUNYAKAA (B. 1947) 3205

Tu Do Street 3207
Prisoners 3208
Thanks 3209
Facing It 3210
Fog Galleon 3211

DENISE LEVERTOV (1923-1997) 3211

Overheard over S. E. Asia 3213
In Thai Binh (Peace) Province 3214
Fragrance of Life, Odor of Death 3215
A Poem at Christmas, 1972, during the Terror-Bombing of North Vietnam 3216

LE LY HAYSLIP (B. 1949) 3217

from When Heaven and Earth Changed Places 3218 from 7. A Different View 3218

RALPH MOLINA (B. 1947) 3224

Dos Recuerdos (after Octavio I. Romano) 3225

The second second

PAULE MARSHALL (B. 1929) 3226

To Da-duh, in Memoriam 3227

ERNEST J. GAINES (B. 1933) 3236

The Sky Is Gray 3237

N. SCOTT MOMADAY (KIOWA) (B. 1934) 3259

from The Way to Rainy Mountain 3260
Prologue 3261
from Introduction 3262
Epilogue 3266

IN FOCUS

Aesthetics and Politics of the 1960s and 1970s—Black, Brown, Yellow, Red 3269

LARRY NEAL (1937-1981) 3271

Some Reflections on the Black Aesthetic 3271

WING TEK LUM (B. 1946) 3274 Minority Poem 3274

RON TANAKA (1944–2007) 3274

I Hate My Wife for Her Flat Yellow Face 3274

COMBAHEE RIVER COLLECTIVE 3276

A Black Feminist Statement 3276

RITA SÁNCHEZ (B. 1952) 3283

Chicana Writer Breaking Out of the Silence 3283

VINE DELORIA (1933–2005) 3287 from Custer Died for Your Sins 3287

Ħ

THE 1970S: DECADE OF DISILLUSIONMENT 3293

ALICE WALKER (B. 1944) 3296

Laurel 3297

TONI CADE BAMBARA (1939–1995) 3305

My Man Bovanne 3306

RUDOLFO A. ANAYA (B. 1937) 3310

from Bless Me, Ultima 3312 Dieciocho 3312

PEDRO PIETRI (1944–2004) 3321

Puerto Rican Obituary 3322 Traffic Violations 3330

ADRIENNE RICH (1929-2012) 3332

Diving into the Wreck 3333
From a Survivor 3336
Power 3337
Not Somewhere Else, but Here 3337
Coast to Coast 3338
Frame 3339

ISHMAEL REED (B. 1938) 3341

Badman of the Guest Professor 3342 Bitter Chocolate 3346

MAXINE HONG KINGSTON (B. 1940) 3347

No Name Woman 3349

JESSICA HAGEDORN (B. 1949) 3358

The Death of Anna May Wong 3359 Filipino Boogie 3360 Homesick 3363

DONALD BARTHELME (1931-1989) 3365

At the End of the Mechanical Age 3366

AUDRE LORDE (1934-1992) 3371

Power 3372

Never Take Fire from a Woman 3374

The Art of Response 3374

Stations 3375

The Master's Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master's House 3376

MICHAEL S. HARPER (B. 1938) 3379

Song: I Want a Witness 3380 Nightmare Begins Responsibility 3380 Here Where Coltrane Is 3381 Camp Story 3382

IN FOCUS

Ojibway Writing and Activism in the Red Power Years 3384

DIANE BURNS (1957-2006) 3386

Sure You Can Ask Me a Personal Question 3386

LOUISE ERDRICH (B. 1954) 3387

The Red Convertible: Lyman Lamartine 3387 from Love Medicine 3387

DENNIS BANKS (B. 1937) WITH RICHARD ERDOES (1912–2008) 3394 from Ojibwa Warrior 3394

GERALD VIZENOR (B. 1934) 3402

Dennis of Wounded Knee 3402

KIMBERLY BLAESER (B. 1955) 3414

Apprenticed to Justice 3414

"Native Americans" vs. "The Poets" 3417

JIM NORTHRUP (B. 1953) 3417

Veteran's Dance 3417

GORDON HENRY (B. 1955) 3425

Arthur Boozhoo on the Nature of Magic 3425



THE 1980s: DISASTERS, DIVESTMENT, DIVERSITY 3432

CYNTHIA OZICK (B. 1928) 3434

The Shawl 3436

JANICE MIRIKITANI (B. 1942) 3439

For My Father 3440

Desert Flowers 3441 Breaking Tradition 3443 Recipe 3444

LESLIE MARMON SILKO (LAGUNA) (B. 1948) 3445

Lullaby 3446

RAYMOND CARVER (1938-1988) 3453

What We Talk about When We Talk about Love 3455

RICHARD FORD (B. 1944) 3464

Rock Springs 3465

PHILIP LEVINE (B. 1928) 3481

Coming Home, Detroit, 1968 3482 The Rats 3483 The Everlasting Sunday 3484 The Simple Truth 3485 The Lesson 3486

VÍCTOR HERNÁNDEZ CRUZ (B. 1949) 3487

urban dream 3489 Mountain Building 3489 Table of Contents 3491

SIMON ORTIZ (ACOMA PUEBLO) (B. 1941) 3492

from Sand Creek 3493

GARRETT KAORU HONGO (B. 1951) 3499

Yellow Light 3500
Off from Swing Shift 3501
Who among You Knows the Essence of Garlic? 3503
And Your Soul Shall Dance 3504
The Unreal Dwelling: My Years in Volcano 3505

GARY SOTO (B. 1952) 3508

Braly Street 3509
The Cellar 3511
Mexicans Begin Jogging 3513
Black Hair 3513
Kearney Park 3514

SONIA SANCHEZ (B. 1934) 3515

to blk/record/buyers 3516

Masks 3516

Just Don't Never Give Up on Love 3518

A Letter to Dr. Martin Luther King 3520

Father and Daughter 3522

LUCILLE CLIFTON (1936-2010) 3523

the thirty eighth year 3524 i am accused of tending to the past 3526

at the cemetery, walnut grove plantation, south carolina, 1989 reply 3527 in white america 3528 JUNE JORDAN (1936–2002) 3530 Poem about My Rights 3532 To Free Nelson Mandela 3534 Moving towards Home 3536 TONI MORRISON (B. 1931) 3538 Recitatif 3541 NICHOLASA MOHR (B. 1938) 3555 from Rituals of Survival 3557 A Thanksgiving Celebration (Amy) 3557 Helena María Viramontes (b. 1954) 3564 The Cariboo Cafe 3566 GRACE PALEY (1922-2007) 3576 The Expensive Moment 3578 WENDY ROSE (HOPI) (B. 1948) Throat Song: The Rotating Earth 3587 Loo-wit 3588 To the Hopi in Richmond (Santa Fe Indian Village) 3589 If I Am Too Brown or Too White for You 3590 Story Keeper 3591 Julia 3594 GEORGE C. WOLFE (B. 1954) 3596 The Colored Museum 3598 PAT MORA (B. 1942) 363 l Border Town: 1938 3632 Unnatural Speech 3633 University Avenue 3634 JUDITH ORTIZ COFER (B. 1952) Claims 3636 The Woman Who Was Left at the Altar 3636 My Father in the Navy: A Childhood Memory 3637 En Mis Ojos No Hay Días 3637 Latin Women Pray 3638 TATO LAVIERA (B. 1951) 3639

frío 3640 AmeRícan 3641 Latero Story 3643

GLORIA ANZALDÚA (1942–2004) 3644

from Borderlands/La Frontera 3646

ANN BEATTIE (B. 1947) 3670

Janus 3671

JOY HARJO (CREEK) (B. 1951) 3675

The Woman Hanging from the Thirteenth Floor Window 3676

New Orleans 3678

Remember 3680

Vision 3681

Anchorage 3681

Deer Dancer 3683

We Must Call a Meeting 3684

BOBBIE ANN MASON (B. 1940) 3685

Airwaves 3686

LORNA DEE CERVANTES (B. 1954) 3699

Beneath the Shadow of the Freeway 3700

Poem for the Young White Man Who Asked Me How I, an Intelligent, Well-Read Person, Could Believe in the War between Races 3703

Macho 3704

JAMAICA KINCAID (B. 1949) 3705

from A Small Place 3707

BHARATI MUKHERJEE (B. 1940) 3712

A Wife's Story 3713

CAROLYN FORCHÉ (B. 1950) 3723

The Country between Us 3725

The Colonel 3725

Because One Is Always Forgotten 3725

As Children Together 3726

from The Recording Angel 3728

Elegy 3730

DOROTHY ALLISON (B. 1949) 3731

Don't Tell Me You Don't Know 3732

FRANK CHIN (B. 1940) 3742

Railroad Standard Time 3744

JOHN EDGAR WIDEMAN (B. 1941) 3749

Valaida 3750

THE 1990s: NEW WORLD DISORDER

3758

LI-YOUNG LEE (B. 1957) 3760

I Ask My Mother to Sing 3762

My Father, in Heaven, Is Reading Out Loud 3762

With Ruins 3763

This Room and Everything in It 3764

ART SPIEGELMAN (B. 1948) 3765

Don't Get Around Much Anymore 3767 from Maus II 3769

GISH JEN (B. 1955) 3780

In the American Society 3781

I. His Own Society 3781

II. In the American Society 3788

CHRIS WARE (B. 1967) 3792

Thrilling Adventure Stories (I Guess) 3794

LAWSON FUSAO INADA (B. 1938) 3800

Instructions to All Persons 3801
Two Variations on a Theme by Thelonious Monk As Inspired by Mal
Waldron 3802
Introduction: Monk's Prosody 3802
I. Blue Monk (linear) 3803
II. "Blue Monk" (percussive) 3807
Kicking the Habit 3807

LYNDA BARRY (B. 1956) 3811

On Being Asian American 3810

Messed Up and Confused 3813
Help You 3814
Family Pictures 3815
It's Cool 3816
She Wanted It, She Wanted It 3817
If You Want to Know Teenagers by Mar Lys 3818

KIMIKO HAHN (B. 1955) 3819

Strands 3820 Resistance: A Poem on Ikat Cloth 3822 Cuttings 3830

NAOMI SHIHAB NYE (B. 1952) 3836

Ducks 3837
Different Ways to Pray 3838
My Father and the Figtree 3839
Blood 3840
Where the Soft Air Lives 3841

EDWIDGE DANTICAT (B. 1969) 3844

New York Day Women 3846

CHANG-RAE LEE (B. 1965) 3849

Coming Home Again 3850

PAULA VOGEL (B. 1951) 3858

How I Learned to Drive 3860

RANE ARROYO (1954-2010) 3902

My Transvestite Uncle Is Missing 3904 Caribbean Braille 3905 Write What You Know 3906 That Flag 3908

SANDRA CISNEROS (B. 1954) 3909

Mericans 3910 Tepeyac 3912

DAVID FOSTER WALLACE (1962-2008) 3914

The Devil Is a Busy Man 3915

FRAR

IN FOCUS

Prison Literature 3918

ETHERIDGE KNIGHT (1931-1991) 3919

The Idea of Ancestry 3921
The Violent Space (or When Your Sister Sleeps Around for Money) 3922
Ilu, the Talking Drum 3923
A Poem for Myself (or Blues for a Mississippi Black Boy) 3924

JIMMY SANTIAGO BACA (B. 1952) 3925

I've Taken Risks 3927
I Put on My Jacket 3928
Commitment 3928
Ghost Reading in Sacramento 3928

KATHY BOUDIN (B. 1943) 3929

The Call 3931 Our Skirt 3933 A Trilogy of Journeys 3934

LEONARD PELTIER (B. 1944) 3936 from Prison Writings 3937

JUDEE NORTON (B. 1949) 3939 Norton #59900 3941



THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY: 9/II AND BEYOND

3947

JHUMPA LAHIRI (B. 1967) 3949

When Mr. Pirzada Came to Dine 3950

PERCIVAL EVERETT (B. 1956) 3962

The Appropriation of Cultures 3963

SHERMAN ALEXIE (SPOKANE-COEUR D'ALENE) (B. 1966) 3970

What You Pawn I Will Redeem 3971

MARTIN ESPADA (B. 1957) 3987

Jim's Blind Blues 3989
Latin Night at the Pawnshop 3990
Inheritance of Waterfalls and Sharks 3991
The Poet in the Box 3992
Ghazal for Open Hands 3993
Alabanza: In Praise of Local 100 3994

DEMETRIA MARTÍNEZ (B. 1960) 3995

Wanted 3997 Sonogram 3998 The Devil's Workshop 3998 Cold Snap in Tucson 3999

T. C. BOYLE (B. 1948) 3999

Blinded by the Light 4001

ALISON BECHDEL (B. 1960) 4011

from Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic 4013

IN FOCUS

The 9/11 Terror Attacks 4022

JEAN BAUDRILLARD (1929–2007) 4023 from The Spirit of Terrorism 4023

WAI CHEE DIMOCK (B. 1953) 4028
Planet and America, Set and Subset 4028

DON DELILLO (B. 1936) 4033 In the Ruins of the Future 4034 from Falling Man 4042

JOHN UPDIKE (1932–2009) 4044 Varieties of Religious Experience 4046

STEPHEN DUNN (B. 1939) 4063 Grudges 4064

NATASHA TRETHEWEY (B. 1966) 4065

White Lies 4066 History Lesson 4066 Southern Gothic 4067 Incident 4068

JUNOT DÍAZ (B. 1968) 4068

Fiesta, 1980 4070

DAVE EGGERS (B. 1970) 4080

What It Means When a Crowd in a Faraway Nation Takes a Soldier Representing Your Own Nation, Shoots Him, Drags Him from His Vehicle and Then Mutilates Him in the Dust 4081

JANE JEONG TRENKA (B. 1972) 4082

from The Language of Blood 4084 Exile's Crossword 4084 A Fairy Tale 4089

ZZ PACKER (B. 1973) 4090

Drinking Coffee Elsewhere 4091

FRANCISCO GOLDMAN (B. 1954) 4106

The Wave 4107

MANUEL MUÑOZ (B. 1972) 4123

Bring Brang Brung 4125

IN FOCUS

Spoken Word Poetry 4137

ISHLE YI PARK (B. 1977) 4138

Samchun in the Grocery Store 4138 Jejudo Dreams 4139 Fort Totten 4141

JESSICA CARE MOORE (B. 1971) 4144

My Caged Bird Don't Sing and Every Black Bird Ain't a Piece of Fried Chicken 4144

WILLIE PERDOMO (B. 1967) 4146

Notes for a Slow Jam 4146

PATRICIA SMITH (B. 1955) 4149

Asking for a Heart Attack 4149

EDWIN TORRES (B. 1958) 4150

Dig on the Decade 4150

SAUL STACEY WILLIAMS (B. 1972) 4156

Gypsy Girl 4156

TRACIE MORRIS (B. 1968) 4161

Project Princess 4161

....

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS A-1
INDEX OF AUTHORS, TITLES, AND FIRST LINES OF POEMS I-1