



Safe House Compromised

Agnes Marton

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Locofo Chaps

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Locofo Chaps is dedicated to publishing politically-oriented poetry.

Chicago, USA, 2017

Donald

The boy kept rubbing himself
to smeary bubbles.

Now, a hollow man-
child, he tries to gamble
our core away. Donald
Duck wants to change his name.
I don't blame him.
I would do the same.

How to Talk to a President

Donald, we are going to see the doctor.
When he asks you to say A,
please don't say B, don't frown,
don't spit, don't grab his hands
like a pre-existing King Kong.

Donald, today we learn how to spell
'nauseous.' I know it's not easy
but do your best, you might
even get some treat. A plastic
spider or some belching powder

from the magic shop to make
your friends burp like crazy.

There, there.

What, you don't have friends?
Never mind.

Come on, N-A-U-S-E-O-U-S.
Even you can do it.

Oh no, you fucked it up again.

Bring me a rope.

Wait, don't.

Puzzle

My name is 666 down
in the latest Trumpistan Chronicle.
They did ask how I would define
myself in five words.
I said: 'Gazumper. More, more, more, more.'
Honesty pays.

1984 across: covfefe is covfefe is covfefe.
The next issue will be published in Russian.
We should practise how to write
kobqeqe.

The main line is 'brain damage caused by power' –
I can't find the solution.

Brigitte

You're in such a good shape.

You are less invisible than an ashtray.

You look almost stunning. At the first glance.

I just ggggrrrrabbb your (hhhannnnnddd)
until you say

'Enchantée.'

The Land of Choice

A left-handed forced to use her right,
I drew stumbling pics of my grandma.
She peeped around when entering the church,
forbidden land. No circle I accomplished
was round, my rainbows crutched.
When I was told to depict a role
model, I didn't hesitate for a moment.
Born into lies, my choice was Leonid
Brezhnev. I ended up with a bumble-bear
romping in the centre of the world.
I wished I would make it to the States
one day. To the Land of Options.
Hell I did. Each time I enter
the Freedom of Malls, I'm asked
at immigration 'Not again, Agnes? Not
for poetry?' Side-eyeing the queue,
I nod 'Yes, sir, your records are dandy.'

Have You Ever Slapped Someone Transparent?

I'll be a djin, that's what I deserve.
To linger before becoming a shell.
To be sold without a price
and to feed those who won't
call me a slave, noble souls.
To skim or not to skim,
my problem, not theirs.
They can speak
up. My masters. Especially him,
his voice is a glacier calving,
drifting them too. He knows how to skin
a lion, but it's me who buries the kids'
darling tabby, humming to mild
the cling of the shovel
on the gravel. We hug. They ask
why I never giggle. Never yawn.
Never say no. They ask why
my name is Where The Hell
Are You Bitch. They don't even ask
why my flapping hands are wind.

‘Helló, Rőfik!’

Meanwhile in Orbanistan the prime
minister visited a potential voter.
The old woman, Bőzsi néni
wanted to impress him
by showing him her beloved swines.
Viktor tried to seem cool
(cameras and all),
greeted them with the words ‘Helló, Rőfik!’
‘Hi, Piggies.’
The disgust was unmistakable in the pigs’ eyes.

Does Donald visit pigsteries?
I doubt it. He’s too busy with golf.

Safe House Compromised

We thought we could stay clean.
We thought we could stay.
We thought we could.
We thought. We.

And here we are,
heavy with mucus and slime,
jetlagged, from Planet Earth.

AGNES MARTON

Hungarian-born poet, writer, Reviews Editor of The Ofi Press, Fellow of The Royal Society of Arts, founding member of Phoneme Media.

Recent exhibitions and art projects: 'European Sculpture: Methods, Materials, Poetry' (Sweden), 'Guardian of the Edge – Visual artists respond to the poetry of Agnes Marton' (Luxembourg), 'Poetica Botanica' (UK).

Recent publications she has been involved in: 'Exquisite Duet' (USA), 'Alice' (UK), 'Human/Nature' (UK), 'Not a Drop' (UK), 'Umbrellas of Edinburgh' (UK), 'A Face in the Mirror, a Hook on the Door: An Anthology of Urban Legends & Modern Folklore' (UK).

She participated in the Disquiet International Literary Program (Portugal), and residencies at the Scott Polar Research Institute (UK), at the TGC (Ireland), in the Arctic Circle, at Gullkistan (Iceland) and at La Macina (Italy).

The opera duet based on her poetry collection 'Captain Fly's Bucket List' was premiered in London (2016, composer: Vasiliki Legaki).

Acknowledgements

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‘The Land of Choice’ responds to Alvin Pagdanganan Gregorio’s artwork ‘The Circle of Life is Pretty Cool Unless It’s Your Turn to Die.’

‘Have You Ever Slapped Someone Transparent?’ was first published in the special feature of Galatea Resurrects responding to Alex Tizon’s article "My Family’s Slave" as regards Eudocia Tomas Pulido (The Atlantic, June 2017).

‘Helló, Röfik!’ refers to this visit:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DLb_EAUmU_o

Locofo Chaps

2017

Eileen Tabios – *To Be An Empire Is To Burn*

Charles Perrone – *A CAPacious Act*

Francesco Levato – *A Continuum of Force*

Joel Chace – *America's Tin*

John Goodman – *Twenty Moments that Changed the World*

Donna Kuhn – *Don't Say His Name*

Eileen Tabios (ed.) – *Puñeta: Political Pilipinx Poetry*

Gabriel Gudding – *Bed From Government*

mLEKAL aND – *Manifesto of the Moment*

Garin Cycholl – *Country Musics 20/20*

Mary Kasimor – *The Prometheus Collage*

Iars palm – *case*

Reijo Valta – *Truth and Truthmp*

Andrew Peterson – *The Big Game is Every Night*

Romeo Alcala Cruz – *Archaeoteryx*

John Lowther – *18 of 555*

Jorge Sánchez – *Now Sing*

Alex Gildzen — *Disco Naps & Odd Nods*

Barbara Janes Reyes – *Puñeta: Political Pilipinx Poetry, vol. 2*

Luisa A. Igloria – *Puñeta: Political Pilipinx Poetry, vol. 3*

Tom Bamford – *The Gag Reel*

Melinda Luisa de Jesús – *Humpty Drumpfty and Other Poems*

Allen Bramhall – *Bleak Like Me*

Kristian Carlsson – *The United World of War*

Roy Bentley – *Men, Death, Lies*

Travis Macdonald – *How to Zing the Government*

Kristian Carlsson – *Dhaka Poems*

Barbara Jane Reyes – *Nevertheless, #She Persisted*

Martha Deed – *We Should Have Seen This Coming*
Matt Hill – *Yet Another Blunted Ascent*
Patricia Roth Schwartz – *Know Better*
Melinda Luisa de Jesús – *Petty Poetry for SCROTUS' Girls,*
with poems for Elizabeth Warren and Michelle Obama
Freke Rähä – *Explanation model for 'Virus'*
Eileen R. Tabios – *Immigrant*
Ronald Mars Lintz – *Orange Crust & Light*
John Bloomberg-Rissman – *In These Days of Rage*
Colin Dardis – *Post-Truth Blues*
Leah Mueller – *Political Apnea*
Naomi Buck Palagi – *Imagine Renaissance*
John Bloomberg-Rissman and Eileen Tabios –
Comprehending Mortality
Dan Ryan – *Swamp Tales*
Sheri Reda – *Stubborn*
Aileen Cassinetta – *B & O Blues*
Mark Young – *the veil drops*
Christine Stoddard — *Chica/Mujer*
Aileen Ibardaloza, Paul Cassinetta, and Wesley St. Jo – *No*
Names
Nicholas Michael Ravnikaar – *Liberal elite media rag. SAD!*
Mark Young – *The Waitstaff of Mar-a-Largo*
Howard Yosha – *Stop Armageddon*
Andrew and Donora Rihn – *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell*
Reshmi Dutt-Ballerstadt – *Extreme Vetting*
Michael Dickel – *Breakfast at the End of Capitalism*
Tom Hibbard – *Poems of Innocence and Guilt*
Eileen Tabios (ed.) – *Menopausal Hay(na)ku*
For P-Grubbers
Aileen Casinetta – *Tweet*
Melinda Luisa de Jesús – *Defying Trumplandia*
Carol Dorf – *Some Years Ask*

Marthe Reed – *Data Primer*
Carol Dorf – *Some Years Ask*
Amy Bassin and Mark Blickley – *Weathered Reports: Trump
Surrogate Quotes From the Underground*
Nate Logan – *Post-Reel*
Jared Schickling – *Donald Trump and the Pocket Oracle*
Luisa A. Igloria – *Check & Balance*
Alik Barnstone – *So That They Shall Not Say, This Is Jezebel*
Geneva Chao – *post hope*
Thérèse Bachand – *Sanctuary*
Chuck Richardson – *Poesy for the Poetus. . .Our Donaldcito*
John M. Bellinger – *The Inaugural Poems*
Kath Abela Wilson – *The Owl Still Asking*
Ronald Mars Lintz – *Dumped Through*
Agnes Marton – *The Beast Turns Me Into a Tantrumbeast*
Melinda Luisa de Jesús – *Adios, Trumplandia!*
Magus Magnus – *Of Good Counsel*
Matina L. Stamatakis – *Shattered Window Espionage*
Steve Klepetar – *How Fascism Comes to America*
Bill Yarrow – *We All Saw It Coming*
Jim Leftwich – *Improvisations Against Propaganda*
Bill Lavender – *La Police*
Gary Hardaway – *November Odds*
James Robinson – *Burning Tide*
Eric Mohrman – *Prospectors*
Janine Harrison – *If We Were Birds*
Michael Vander Does – *We Are Not Going Away*
John Moore Williams – *The Milo Choir Sings Wild Boys in
Trumplandia*
Andrea Sloan Pink – *Prison and Other Ideas*
Stephen Russell – *Occupy the Inaugural*
James Robison – *Burning Tide*
Ron Czerwien – *A Ragged Tear Down the Middle of Our Flag*
Agnes Marton – *I'm the President, You Are Not*
Ali Znaidi – *Austere Lights*

Maryam Ala Amjadi – *Without Metaphors*
Kathleen S. Burgess – *Gardening with Wallace Stevens*
Jackie Oh – *Fahrenheit*
Gary Lundy – *at / with*
Haley Lasché – *Blood and Survivor*
Wendy Taylor Carlisle – *They Went to the Beach to Play*
Melinda Luisa de Jesús – *James Brown’s Wig and Other Poems*
Tom Hibbard – *Memories of Nothing*
Kath Abela Wilson – *Driftwood Monster*
Barbara Jane Reyes – *Nevertheless, #She Persisted, Number 3*
Maria Damon, Adeena Karasick, Alan Sondheim – *Intersyllabic Weft*
Barbara Jane Reyes – *Nevertheless, #She Persisted, Number 2*
JJ Rowan – *so-called weather*
Jared Schickling – *Donald Trump in North Korea*
Eileen Tabios – *Making National Poetry Month Great Again!*
Allison Joseph – *Taking Back Sad*
Nina Corwin – *What to Pack for the Apocalypse*
E. San Juan, Jr.—*Punta Spartivento*
Daniel M. Shapiro – *The Orange Menace*
Joshua Gage – *Necromancy*
Kenneth Sherwood – *Code of Signals*
George J Farrah – *Walking as Wrinkle*
Steve Abbott – *Kicking Mileposts in the Video Age*
Randy Cauthen – *Wall of Meat*
Serena Piccoli – *silviotrump*
Matt Hill – *Tertium Quid*
Eric Allen Yankee – *Bees Against the War*
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