

Lily Hoang

Three collaborations

The Apocalypse

(from Dan Beachy-Quick)

Apocalypse! Too many millennia have passed—of unwelcomed quiet. The sun whose syllable is no more than blankness, whose syllable is no more than light: we are sure she is dead. The grass grows and the flowers bloom, but we remain taciturn. Nature acts for us like a mime for children, mimicking motions, but keeping the secret words unknown. We see the dance, but to the melody we find ourselves deaf, guessing at the music by the swaying of stems and branches.

The Reduction of Hills

(from Don Mee Choi)

Between and until, the dendrochronologist solicits trees with an upturned thigh and cable knit stocking, wires encircling, perfectly. Beneath the bark, there hides buttons and ringspots, and the dendrochronologist counts the receipts of temporality. The mountains are reduced to hills, bombers laborious—but the rings are hearty versus abandon, the tree counter tautological counting happens to be nothing at all but our aging, retireless aging in epochs instead of minutes.

Before & After
(from Joyelle McSweeney)

Before thought, no one thought to apply mess. After thought, mess applies and applies to everything.

Lily Hoang is the author of four books, including *Changing*, recipient of a PEN Open Books Award. With Joshua Marie Wilkinson, she edited *The Force of What's Possible: Writers on the Avant-Garde and Accessibility*. She teaches in the MFA program at New Mexico State University, where she is Associate Department Head and Prose Editor for Puerto del Sol.