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POETRY

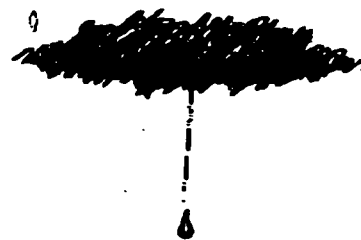
By JANICE FINNEY

Without A Map

Lines are easily drawn
in sand; meridians as invisible
as meaning. What is meant
by departure? Unexpectedly
we're left without boundaries
by the South China Sea.
Privacy at stake, tempers swell
and the unrelenting sun
exaggerates the importance
of a moment's space.
Lickety-split time nicks in,
turns the horizon into a finish line
and we return to I, sitting alone
in an equipped kitchen,
discombobulated
by the faucet's surge.
The window is an open sea
to watch after—
noon wintertide rise, froth
from the Chicago snowfall,
while scanning meaning.

By Rote

My name is Heng Teng.
I am born in Cambodia
in 1942. In 1947,
there is a war when I am
little boy. We fight VietNam.
North VietNam. Ho Chi Minh.
In 1954, there is another war
and they sign Geneva Peace.
In 1969, there is another
war. Americans bomb. In 1975,
the communists take over
my country. In 1979 I escape
to Thailand. In 1981, I come
to America where you teach me
to put my feelings in simple words
and you treat me like I am simple.



Janice Finney is a poet and playwright living in Chicago. Her poetry has appeared in several small presses: *Korone*, *Poetry East*, *Sojourner*, *Oyex Review*, *Thorntree Press Anthology*, and *Emergence*. She worked with the Southeast Asian refugee community in Uptown Chicago for 15 years, and most recently worked for 3 years with Habitat for Humanity serving a large group of immigrant families.

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