A Night in Galician: Five Poets

Translated by Erín Moure and Isaac Xubín
Introduction

Louis Cabri is author of the poetry books *The Mood Embosser* (Coach House Books), *Poetryworld* (CUE), and *Posh Lust* (New Star Books). He has written essays on poets including Bruce Andrews, Jackson Mac Low, Roy Miki, Catriona Strang, Fred Wah, Lissa Wolsak, among others, and teaches literary theory, U.S. and Canadian poetry and poetics, and creative writing at the University of Windsor.
In the courtyard of the Javier Teniente Café Galería, in the Monday evening lead-up to Vigo’s annual poetry festival Poemaria, resident Irish poet Keith Payne deftly coordinated a literary event to accompany the Canada and Beyond IV conference (organized by Belén Martín-Lucas and Pilar Cuder Domínguez in Vigo, Spain). He was in touch with participants months before the 20 June event, arranging with poet Isaac Xubín to translate into Galician those of us writing poems in imperialist English—or, I should hope to presume, writing over, against, or despite such dubious status for the language. Jeff Derksen, John Havelda, Nicole Markotić and I can’t thank Isaac enough for the honour of his linguistic attentions, not only for his translations that evening, but for his working them through to the written forms presented in this sampler, which collects what the five of us read. It was a thrill as well, a trap door drop, to hear the translations delivered by poet Silvia Penas. We thank her for the liquor of her voice, who, together with the reading by Erín Moure, made the occasion genuinely multilingual.
Nicole Markotić

Jeff Derksen

Erín Moure and John Havelda

Photos by Heather Smyth