

# EUGEN JEBELEANU

*Translated from Romanian  
by Matthew Zapruder and Radu Ioanid*

## My Sister

This cow has such gentle eyes.  
And she understands me better than you,  
my brothers.

Because you no longer want me.  
And because you would chase me off  
much closer to death  
than my friend, the cow.

She looks at me  
with understanding eyes  
made of light clouds and marguerites.

She is thinking about the slaughterhouse  
prepared for her and for me  
by that merciless, unseen force.

And her forehead is snow  
and she doesn't wear glasses  
and her temple is a moon  
and she is guarding  
but not stalking me.

## Flower And Bones

The flower is air  
and the air is a flower  
and my bones hurt  
because they want to fly

## And I Have

What I wouldn't have wanted  
and what I wouldn't have dreamed of  
all that I wouldn't have wished  
on any being.

Be happy and don't try  
to understand.  
If you wish  
you can say I'm hermetic.

That I have closed myself  
in a harp made of bars  
emerging  
from myself

and which I am  
soundlessly shaking.

Having nothing to say  
I say that it's good.

## Time

I would take you in my arms, but I am frightened.

You are silent and to capture life  
you talk all the time  
(you believe, you are one who believes)  
and the day is gone.

And now  
you must rest.

The words flew  
forever lost  
away towards their autumn.

One grape  
from a bunch of grapes  
silently  
rolls through fingers  
  
and the day is gone.

## Leave It Be

Leave those kerchiefs that you love,  
purple, colorful, childish, blue.  
They are all just meaningless banners.  
I left them, and I love them too.  
Their colors belong to times gone forever.  
They don't blossom where the rosy embers burn,  
nor in the definitive kiss of the eyes.  
Look how morning flaps slowly,  
whispering shirts, and multicolored blouses,  
and pants torn from being worn  
so often in rain and wind.  
They have no flagpole,  
and never hang at half-mast.  
Let's listen to the story  
of their eternal, ephemeral life.