

POEMS  
OF INNOCENCE AND GUILT



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Locofo Chaps

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Locofo Chaps is dedicated to publishing politically-oriented poetry.

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## A NIGHT IN FEBRUARY

why has this happened  
yet you deny it  
democracies of desire  
the uncurtained windows of apartments  
near bartell theater  
in egypt, new zealand  
in syria & natori city  
for twenty-four hours  
a denunciation of medicare  
sat utterly on the other side  
waved goodbye from replicated rooftops  
the diseased hoof beats of doom  
firefighters' bagpipes  
at the muddy grave of human will  
had no answer  
in the tortured capitol  
a math teacher sleeps on the granite floor  
dreaming of livestock & spicy mix  
uw-whitewater tore up lists  
hospital workers walked on perilous shores  
silver alliance of outcasts  
soon the dusk of the generations will fall  
& our light will shine forever

## TEAMSTERS FOR PEACE

god bless america  
the struggle of mankind  
on dane county plateau  
detroit bill at the "information station"  
lacrosse john outside  
sharon on her prayer walk  
california will, tibet jimy  
IBEW local 159, One Wisconsin Now  
Iraq War Veterans for Peace  
rely on the honor of freedom  
a world-wide vision of unity & order  
decorated with wine-red roses  
leaving home in winter  
on the bumpy road of human need  
a scenic triangle  
overwhelmed by comets  
the Governor's voter i.d. bill  
hit-or-miss propriety  
imposed on farm buildings  
"lady forward" offers abundance  
goaded talk about dogmatism  
that no one hears  
that's brutally disdained  
"Workers' Rights are Human Rights"  
"Stop The Race To The Bottom"  
"Fight For Our Future Now"  
you needn't worry  
with no rich or poor  
"taxes" "government"  
assist the winds of everyone

## PRESIDENT WITH NO NAME

*“thus were affirmed humanness,  
tenderness”*

-Czeslaw Milosz

fake news, fake worlds  
the panicked voyage vanishes into the depths of  
pre-existing conditions  
because only ambiguity exists  
pursued in the dire compassionless streets  
pollution floats across the shunted lands  
a brown fog  
a yellow fog  
that insistently defoliates planets  
this obscure commercialized oligarchy of turbo-  
clean numbers  
multiplying secret deserts  
charmingly divided into “us” versus “them”  
pollution consolidates the authority of  
barbarian “progress”  
fascinated with scandalous fruits of deciduous  
dead-ends  
cruelly misused laws  
substitute rigorous bread with ponderous blight  
wars that refugees are accused of causing  
the bathos of meaningless mass-produced  
decades  
murdering universal rights for minor peace-  
seeking offenses  
where health is denied with extorting  
inevitability  
the quacks, the endings, the usurpers, the  
hypocrites, the false prophets  
serving destruction with excess force of  
intimidation  
preying upon democracy’s fallibility

its vast locked-out unknown  
creates a powerful new logical source  
a generic space outside repetition  
a new heightened dimension immanent in  
captured trouble  
the house, the woodshed, the rain  
become a gentle reconciling light  
a flowery sorrowful avant-garde pattern  
where the houses are dim bulging barges  
floating down the river Styx  
and the back porches are reversible unmarried  
angels encouraging everyone  
oriented on broken fragments  
outside the obvious holocaust of violent surface  
cafes, baseball diamonds  
mythic cisterns of life-giving water  
alcoves, entryways, municipal artworks, lamps,  
river walks  
convey the spotless incongruity of everything  
magnificently consecrated  
surreptitiously we close the window curtain  
and forget the bizarre unreality  
the daylight told a lie  
which is the reason Alice got lost  
her sickly inescapable sleep  
her unredeemable tilted amnesia  
that mixed up dishonesty with value  
threatens diversity itself  
history doesn't come from efficient robots  
but from the vibrant mystery of an innocent  
humanity  
there are only a few obscure checkpoints  
showing proof we were here  
global change is impossible to wall out

## 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*

mIEKAL 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*  
Christine Stoddard — *Chica/Mujer*  
Aileen Ibardaloza, Paul Cassinetta, and Wesley St. Jo – *No Names*  
Nicholas Michael Ravnika – *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*

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