



2024 Catalogue

only
neon

poems

isabela
bazon

Only Neon

ISABELA BANZON

Here are a scatter of ekphrastic poems and other meditations on love and time passing.

“Hollowing out in words the spaces of, not loss exactly, but of its shadow, these poetic reckonings resonate in the piercing silence of all loss leaves behind. Elegiac, yet distilled, they speak of and from the afterlives of passion and pain and display a confidence and maturity arrived at only after both love and time have strayed.”—Judy Ick

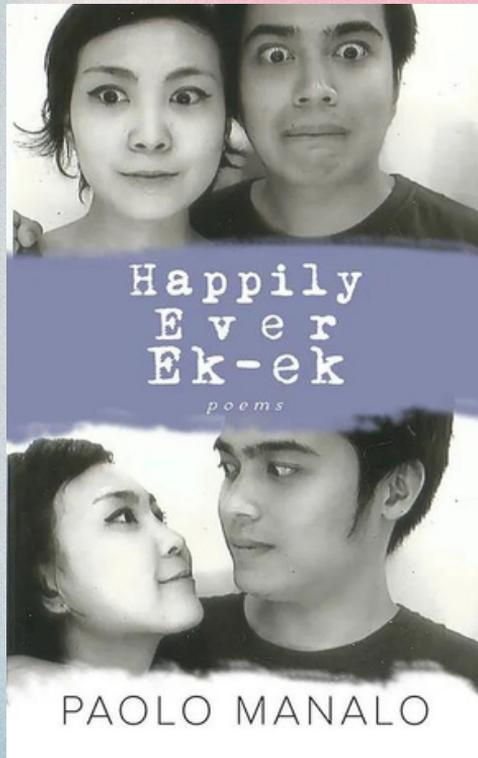
POST- HUMOUS: POEMS PAOLO MANALO

Posthumous: Poems

PAOLO MANALO

This new chapbook collection is a pilgrimage to Han-shan's Cold Mountain in the hermetic terrain and almost zen pandemicon of Paolo Manalo's elegaic adjustments to a life changed by the Covid-19 outbreak of 2020. Written during the lockdown using a process of "arrival by avoidance", Posthumous are poems that anticipate death, kindness, survival.

"Paolo's poetry is cutting and truthful at the same time. In two languages but which captures bodily experiences unexpressed even multilingually. Realizations jolt you, pain and joy come unannounced in unexpected places." -Ruanni Tupas



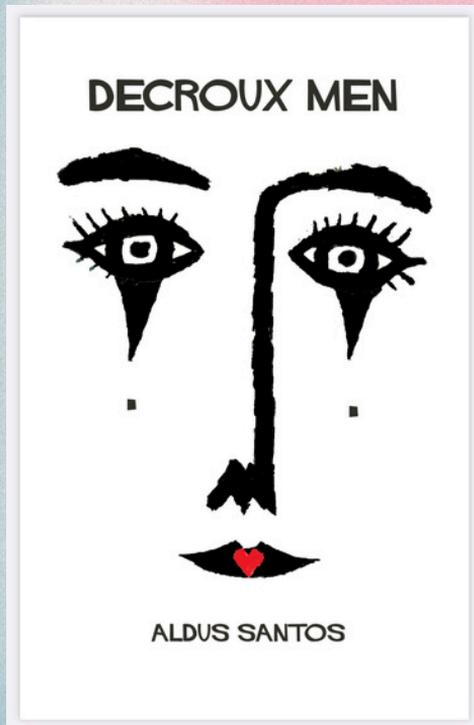
Happily Ever Ek-ek

PAOLO MANALO

In this new poetry collection, Paolo Manalo explores the themes of love and satisfying endings with the same linguistic inventiveness of his previous work, "Jology". Some of these poems are obsessions with lovers, kisses, and flowers; and the repetition of lines from movies, songs, and video games. It seeks closure through formal skill, and when there is none, comfort in the ek-ek of the imagination.

"So close to romance I almost feel I was led on. But those endings, and some beginnings, and middles. Not romance, but there's a lot of winking, which on some days is more than enough." - Mina V. Esguerra, author of contemporary romances such as "Iris After the Incident" and "What Kind of Day"

"Reading the poems of Paolo Manalo is to be happily ensnared in a web where ek-ek and insight meet." - Jonathan Chua, editor of "The Critical Villa" and "The Collected Stories of Jose Garcia Villa"



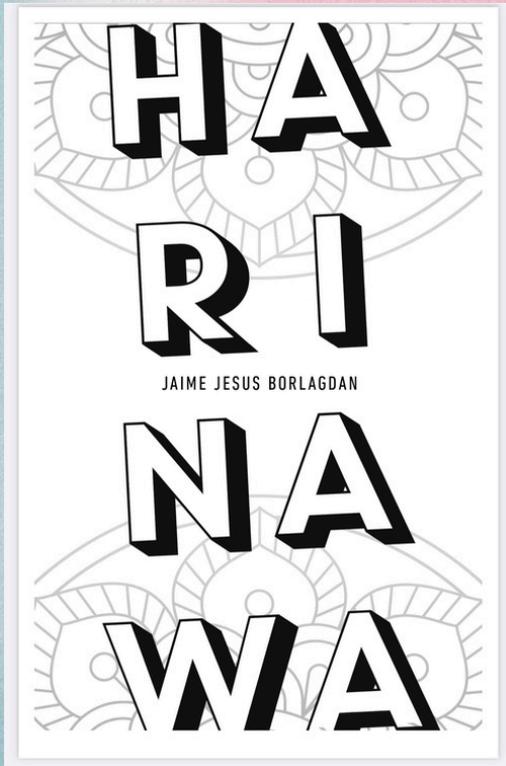
Decroux Men

ALDUS SANTOS

Part pre-show scat, part pre-guillotine prayer. Half-logorrhea, half-rhapsody. When you leaf through *Decroux Men*, you leaf through improbable back stories to great works of art: from Michael Jackson's moonwalking to John Coltrane's "A Love Supreme"; from Francisco Tárrega's "Recuerdos de la Alhambra" to a waitress giving cocktails Gertrude Stein-inspired names. The guesswork is mimed by an omniscient (though not necessarily helpful) narrator, lending a muteness which Anne Carson posits in "Nox" as not being synonymous with silence but symptomatic of man's "fundamental opacity." The poems in this brief collection are attempts, in effect, to puncture holes through that very impenetrability.

"Aldus Santos draws connective lines that cut through the haze of disparate histories and contrasting textures, distilling concurrent threads of music and performance into elegantly sparse pockets of resplendent details hewn from the past and the present. "Decroux Men" collects odes to the everyday, musings on major and minor triumphs and failures, and speculations on the recurrence of ideas throughout an unexpected series of spaces and places, producing a singular, contemplative cadence with an immense yet silent gravitational force. The gaps, the pauses charge each utterance with significance, with an entrancing rhythm that pulls inward and pushes outward intoned by a voice that contains multitudes."

—Itos Ledesma



Harinawa

JAIME JESUS BORLAGDAN

Ang "Harinawa" ay piling mga tulang naisulat sa loob ng dalawampung taon pakatapos mailabas ang "Libro ng Pobyá," ang unang aklat ng makata. Sa munting koleksiyon na ito ikinuyom ang dambuhalang mga usaping tumutukoy sa ating nakakabagabag na karanasan ng pagkakalagak bilang isang kaluluwang eternal sa maselang katawang tiyak na ang katapusan.

"May taimtim na panalangin ng pagpapatuloy at mabalasik na pag-asam sa papausbong pa lamang na katubusan sa Harinawa ni Jaime Jesus Borlagdan. Tila tahimik ngunit makapangyarihang mga responsaryo ang mga tula sa harap ng mga nakikita at nararanasan sa ating Ngayon-at-Dito. Mapanlinlang ang direktang retorika ng mga linya ngunit lagi't laging pinagliliwanag ng mga butil ng tayutay na parang mga "piraso ng nakahihiwang kislap." Manimdim lagi ang nakikita sa kasalukuyan ngunit naidadala ng mga taludtod ang mambabasa sa isang lugar "kung saan ang kalinawan ay nagaganap,/ sumisikat bilang libu-libong umaga." Isang mahusay na pagpapakilala ang Harinawa sa katangi-tanging tinig ni Borlagdan bilang tunay na kontemporaryong makata."

-Dr. Carlos Piocos III,
awtor ng "Corpus" at "Kung ang Siyudad ay Pag-ibig"
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Tilt Cards

ISABELA BANZON

Here are objects in search of a subject through a lenticular view, as though giving the moment a slight wiggle or a sudden wink. Written in verse paragraphs, *Tilt Cards* asks if such moments are accretions of disparate fragments of experience that acquire larger meaning in afterthought after afterthought. From the author of the prizewinning poetry collection *Maybe Something*.

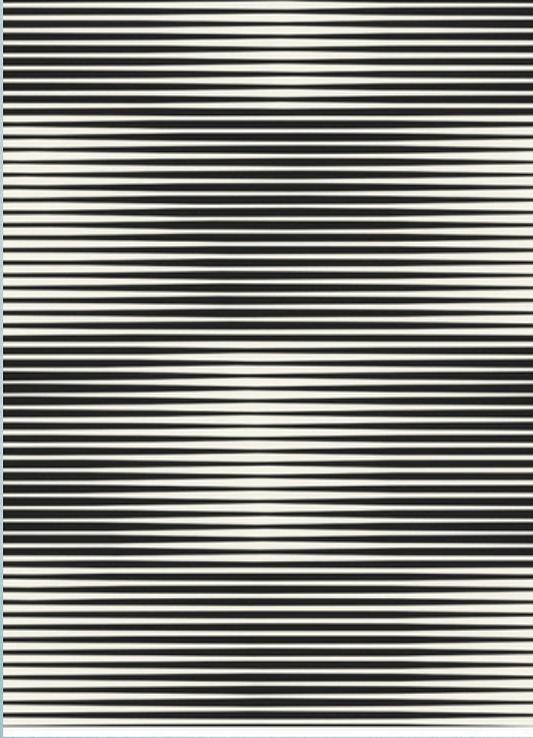
“Very playful, very cryptic, but also very revealing, these carefully assembled fragments freeze time and free time by extending tendrils of continuity into the ever-fluid present. A fascinating chapbook, amusing, but also very sad at some points.

-Maria Rhodora Ancheta

Shifting from image to seemingly random image to epiphany, Tilt Cards reads like a haiku. -Lily Rose Tope

VELOCIRUPTURE

MICHAEL BALILI

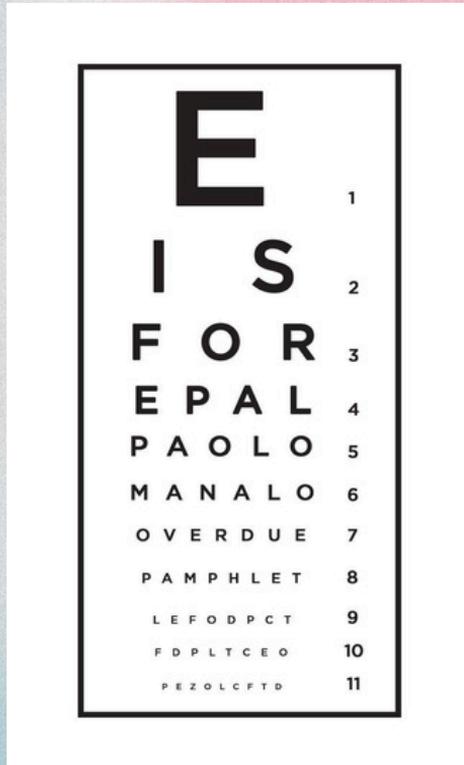


Velocirupture

MICHAEL BALILI

Debut poetry chapbook from Michael Balili.

"Velocirupture's startling juxtapositions and figurations of free-range absurdity and tenderness mark Michael Balili as a troubadour of our troubled times." - Caroline Hau



E is for Epal

PAOLO MANALO

Overdue Pamphlet of Poetry from Paolo Manalo

"Doing what he does best and what only he can, the poet throws creative chaos in the air, as always, and waves it like he just doesn't care. He then catches the mayhem with sharp wit and jagged words, blindfolded, and sprinkles the sliver of beauty on paper. Jolographer than ever, Manalo's latest literary tokenengs are just so good I almost feel honored that he's also known to some as the poemer Bob Ong. GIF smiley." -Bob Ong

Pricelist

Only Neon - 200
Posthumous: Poems - 200
Happily Ever Ek-ek - 400
Decroux Men - 200
Tilt Cards - 200
Harinawa - 200
Velocirupture - 200
E is for Epal - 200

Price in Philippine Peso

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