



Yuliya Musakovska was born in 1982 in Lviv, Ukraine. She obtained her Master's Degree from Lviv National University, Foreign Affairs Department. Currently, she leads a marketing and communications team at a software company. Yuliya translates Swedish poetry into Ukrainian. She has authored following books of poetry: "На вдих і на видих" ("Breathe Out, Breathe In", Kyiv, Fakt, 2010), "Маски" ("Masks", Kyiv, Smoloskyp, 2011). Her works have been widely published in literary magazines, won a number of prizes and were featured in Ukrainian literary festivals. Yuliya's poems have been translated into English, German, Swedish, Bulgarian and Russian.

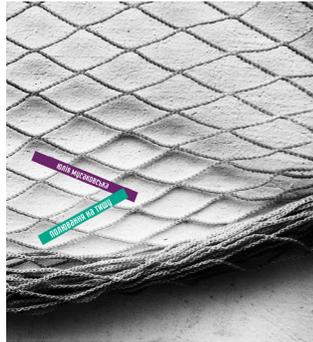
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THE HUNT FOR SILENCE



Perhaps, the most interesting thing in this poetry collection is the way everything meets, overlaps and echoes – finely, precisely, symmetrically. But not stiffly or predictably. It is a natural symmetry of cycles and interdependencies: they are barely noticeable, but if you take something away, it will cause everything to collapse. It is what you

see from a distance watching everything taking shape. And you fail to understand "whether the dragon is inside us // or we are riding it". "The main concept of this book is duality – it is also reflected in its structure. The hunt may mean the desire to possess, to reach silence – or the desire to defuse it, to get rid of it. It is like love-hate relationship: on the one hand, the silence is wanted as peace and calm. On the other hand, it is being fought, because silence also means stagnation, void, an absence of sound; restraint and oppression, that is, an absence of mutual understanding. Nowadays, the real communication is devolving, we are gradually losing the ability to talk to each other. We must realize that silence can become our enemy and find courage to resist it", says Yuliya Musakovska. The first thing you notice when reading the book is the wish to sing those words out, to rock them on your tongue, to whisper, to feel each of them: sea in a seashell is sealed tired in shallow shell the sea feels squashed it is shelled dashing swishing its tail despots are still disputing somewhere ashore sea in the seashell feels the sounds with waves.

"In *Hunt for Silence* Yulia Musakovska baits the reader with the voice from the noise around and lures with bread crumbs of words leading the way to the reader's own self. Catch Yuliya in her word, when it comes so close to you, when it trusts you, before the silence hunts it", says Halyna Kruk, ukrainian poetess. Ukrainian poet from New York Vasyl Makhno described the poems of the collection as follows: "... in their core, they are metaphysical, and their concreteness and reality are as fuzzy as a contemporary poet can afford if he or she chooses to keep the voice and the silence in the amphorae of accentual-syllabic verse".

Poetry. Published in March, 2014.
Original language: Ukrainian. 10554 words.

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