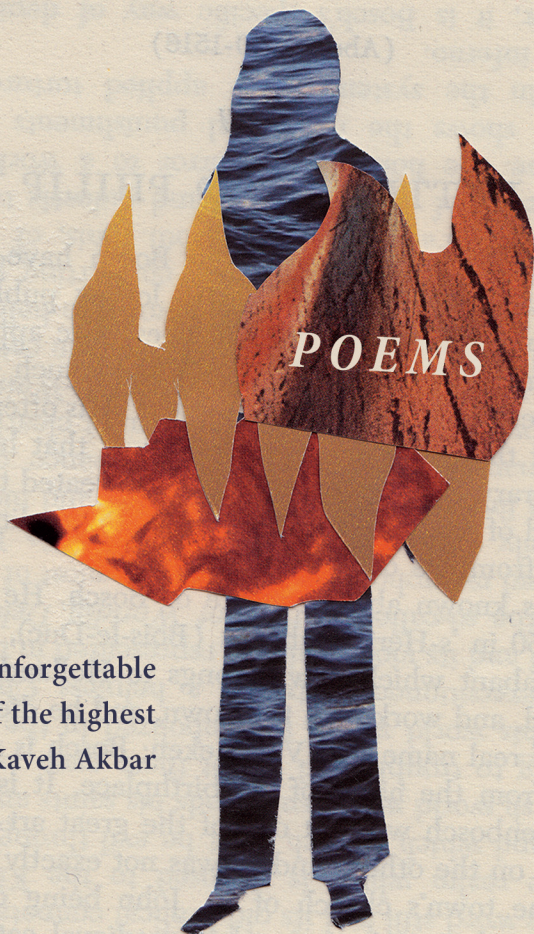


# SPAWN



"*Spawn* is unforgettable  
poetry of the highest  
order."—Kaveh Akbar

MARIE-ANDRÉE GILL

*Translated by Kristen Renee Miller*

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Literature in Translation Series

FIRST ENGLISH EDITION

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## THE RAMPART

At the lake, the fish we're looking  
for is the ouananiche. In Ilnu:  
*she who is found everywhere*  
*or little lost one.*

if I don't touch the sidewalk lines  
if I keep on running  
till I reach the third street light  
everything will be fine

it isn't real it's in my head it's nothing  
my strong nails  
will cling to this disorder

the lake eats away a little more cement with bleeding  
gums

and I want this whole thing over with  
like that first french on the rampart

(we are everywhere lost)

some benches  
some pruned cedars  
and there, looming  
four cement teepees

engraved:  
beaver  
snowshoes  
canoe, bear  
drab cement  
drab procession  
the story drawn, lifeless

The rampart

suspended in time  
prams, drunk boys

day and night the dogs

day and night the dandelions push  
through cracks in the cement

and before us, the lake  
a luck  
the lake.



its flashing waves  
revive humanity  
one drop at a time

on the main street  
we draw game migrations  
and curves of the stock exchange in chalk

we cherish the thrill of plucking daisies  
and count the petals silently  
to be sure that someday  
we'll be loved

*We have plans for you*, they say.  
And we laugh. As narcotic ghosts cling  
to the storms of our bodies  
we laugh.