

EMILY MIAO — GEOGRAPHY OF MOTHERS



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It is an old story. Girls, perched on banks, shedding masks onto the moonlit pebbles. They are giggling, brushing white flecks off their noses. The myth tells them to drag fingers into the lake, lick the ripple, splash dirty off their mishaven legs. Mother warned of wolves nuzzling by their feet. But water makes them submissive. Let the dragonflies and stained reeds whisper things that never happened. Let the rolling waves smooth their palms half-cast and forgotten by the bayside. They wade into the shallows, black manes haloing their bodies. A mist settles; their crested reflections blur into mosaics. Remember hands pressing into waists. Remember sighs dancing on lips. When the fog lifts, the girls are gone.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

EMMA MIAO is a poet from Vancouver, BC.

Her work appears in *The Fiddlehead*, *Atlanta Review*, *Diode Poetry Journal*, *Quarterly West*, *Glass: A Journal of Poetry*, and *The Emerson Review*.

She is the recipient of *The Fiddlehead's* Ralph Gustafson Poetry Prize for her poem “Rabbits on the Balcony” and a Foyle Young Poet of the Year. She is also the winner of the spring F(r)iction Poetry Contest 2020, the runner-up for the Robert Graves Youth Poetry Prize 2020, and a finalist for the *Atlanta Review* International Contest 2020 and Yemassee Poetry Prize 2020. She has been recognized by the University of Roehampton, University of South Carolina, and Emerson College, among others. An alumna of the Adroit Journal Summer Mentorship and the Iowa Young Writers' Studio, her poetry explores the Asian-Canadian experience, the body, and family relationships.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

LISA CHUN is a graphic design artist currently living in Vancouver, BC. Specializing in portraits, she is passionate about curating emotions through her illustrations. She works primarily through digital mediums. She is the cover artist for *Geography of Mothers* (Frog Hollow Press, 2021).

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