Alexis Almeida

*I Have Never Been Able to Sing*

An experiment in creating an autobiography’s negative, *I Have Never Been Able to Sing* draws inspiration from the discursive, non-linear sentences of Rosmarie Waldrop’s *The Reproduction of Profiles* and Édouard Levé’s *Autoportrait*, as well as from the intricate curvature of Leon Ferrari’s heliographic drawings and Leslie Hewitt’s multi-layered photographs. Unfolding through a series of discrete moments and overlapping fragments, the poem explores the unstable ground of dichotomy, the constant slippage between past and present, real and imagined selves.

“Part confession and incantation, part Myers-Briggs answer sheet and language of first intimacy, Almeida’s rich and compelling sequence of negations and assertions plays on the senses and the mind like dexterous fingers weaving fine, strong threads.”

— Robert Fernandez

“I feel the bend, the contraction, the shudder in the crossing between what one has never done and what one is. Something soft opens in the interstice, something funny, something like awe...”

— Renee Gladman

“I continue to believe in the magnificent modesty of the cycle.”

— John Godfrey

Alexis Almeida grew up in Chicago. Her poems, translations, and essays have appeared recently in BOMB, The Brooklyn Rail, Gulf Coast, and elsewhere. She is the author of the chapbook *Half-Shine* (Dancing Girl Press) and translator of Florencia Castellano’s *Monitored Properties* (UDP) and Roberta Iannamico’s *Wreckage* (Toad Press). She was a recent Fulbright research fellow to Argentina, and now lives in Providence, RI where she runs 18 Owls Press.