Don Mee Choi

Translation is a Mode=Translation is an Anti-neocolonial Mode

Don Mee Choi is the author of three books of poetry and hybrid essays, and an award-winning translator of contemporary Korean women’s poetry. In this pamphlet, Translation is a Mode=Translation is an Anti-neocolonial Mode, she explores translation and language in the context of US imperialism—through the eyes of a “foreigner;” a translator; a child in Timoka, the made-up city of Ingmar Bergman’s The Silence; a child from a neocolony.

This pamphlet is part of UDP’s 2020 Pamphlet Series: twenty commissioned essays on collective work, translation, performance, pedagogy, poetics, and small press publishing. Each offers a different approach to the pamphlet as a form of working in the present, an engagement at once sustained and ephemeral.

“The ultimate force of Choi’s thinking lies in the counter-colonial model.

—JOYELLE MCSWEENEY

Born in Seoul, South Korea, Don Mee Choi is the author of DMZ Colony (Wave Books), Hardly War (Wave Books), The Morning News Is Exciting (Action Books), and several chapbooks and pamphlets of poems and essays. She has received a Whiting Award, Lannan Literary Fellowship, Lucien Stryk Translation Prize, and DAAD Artists-in-Berlin Fellowship. She has translated several collections of Kim Hyesoon’s poetry, including Autobiography of Death (New Directions), which received the 2019 International Griffin Poetry Prize.