Julia Wong Kcomt
Vice-royal-ties

Translated from the Spanish by Jennifer Shyue

The title of *Bi-rey-nato*, or *Vice-royal-ties*, Julia Wong Kcomt's sixth poetry collection, is a homonym for "virreinato" or "viceroyalty," but can also be broken down into its component words: "bi" (bi/two), "rey" (king), and "nato" (born). Likewise, the poems in this chapbook play with binaries: in power, love, language, country, identity. The salt in the air of seaside Lima, the setting of the first section, condenses into the salt that trails through the second section, set mostly in Argentina.

" Julia Wong Kcomt's poems are taut and pulsing, each word as incisive as evocative. Jennifer Shyue's keen ear in translating these poems makes us feel Wong Kcomt breathing along the lines.
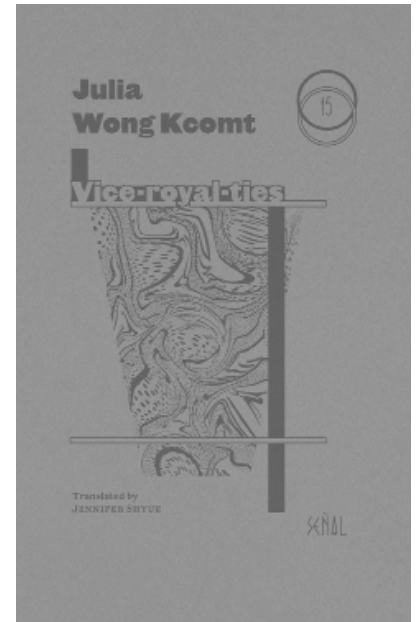
— ARON AJI

" [Wong Kcomt's] poems sweep you into the tender points of the diasporic soul—that ache of always being a little bit elsewhere, the yearning for homes and languages that might have been. [...] [Shyue's] translation undulates with a delicate, playful attunement.

— KATRINA DODSON

" I feel so refreshed reading [Wong Kcomt's] poems/[Shyue's] translations, like a lifetime of rain has lifted and I've been given a new prescription.

— BRANDON SHIMODA

Chapbook
Poetry | $12
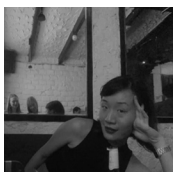5.25" x 8.25" | 48 pp.
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Julia Wong Kcomt was born into a tusán (Chinese Peruvian) family in Chepén, Peru, in 1965. She traveled from an early age, and her perceptions of country borders, different cultures, and diversity in ethnicity and religion became a strong motivation to write. She is the author of 17 volumes of poetry; five books of fiction; and two collections of hybrid prose.

Jennifer Shyue is a translator focusing on contemporary Cuban and Asian-Peruvian writers. Her work has been supported by grants from Fulbright, Princeton University, and the University of Iowa and has appeared in *The Arkansas International*, *New England Review*, *Spoon River Poetry Review*, and elsewhere.