

From one word to another ...  
was rowing between islands. Two or more  
islands were cranes, fishing companionably close.  
No special pattern to cranes. But feed in, not setting  
but space, as the Chinese know space, and one day  
the islands rise in a spray of swallows, godwits headed  
for the far rim of the earth. Readable after a fashion.

(from 'J.H. Prynne in China')

**DIANA BRIDGE's** poems navigate vast spaces and examine their subjects intently through diverse lenses. They reflect her immersion in the great cultures of China and India, her scholarship, especially in English and classical Chinese poetry, and her exploration of multiple mythologies. The result is an intricate meshing of realities with a remarkable depth and richness of perspective.

This is a collection quite unlike almost any New Zealand poetry I can think of, one that makes its own totally justifiable demands as it achieves a level of rare impressiveness ...

It is in the tradition of that long series of poets from the Metaphysicals to Eliot and beyond, a genre of verse where sensuous detail and intellectual patterning are often inseparable ... It is all done lightly, without fuss, the writing uncluttered and immediate.

Since Baxter, most New Zealand poets have shied away from the use of myth. Bridge mines this vein for its traditional as well as personal resonances ... She knows, as firmly as did Jung, that 'myths give us pictures for our emotions'. These poems show just how originally this might be done. — VINCENT O'SULLIVAN



**In 2010 Diana Bridge received the Lauris Edmond Memorial Award for Poetry, and in 2014 she won the Landfall Essay Competition. She was awarded the Sarah Broom Poetry Prize in 2015, the chief judge placing her work 'amongst the best being written anywhere right now'. She was the first New Zealander since Janet Frame to take up a residency by invitation at the Artists' Colony at Yaddo, New York. *In the Supplementary Garden: New and selected poems* was longlisted for the 2017 Ockham Book Awards. *Two or More Islands* is Diana Bridge's seventh collection.**

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