

# Transformation

Edited by Maree Silver & Janette Fernando  
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The Editors in the Foreword to this Anthology, write,

*Transformation, like so many things in life, is two-edged. It can be defined as a marked change in form, nature, or appearance, often leading to a change for the better ... Life is a transformative journey whether or not we appreciate and embrace the many changes we meet along its way. Nothing remains the same. Change can also be painful and frightening ... In this Anthology the poets explore many aspects of transformation which are taking place around us. Their observations are about faith, creation, love, personal transitions, nature's beauty and harshness, illness and ageing ...*

The Anthology aims to provide this range of ideas, as well as a range of genre. In this, it succeeds admirably. From the concise and precise imagery depicting the 'small picture', of Janet Howie's Haiku sequence, 'Transformation': (a selection)

*pink explosions –  
all along the street  
crepe myrtles*

*candlelight –  
even the smallest flame  
softens the darkness*

*creative dance –  
the paintbrush  
in the artist's hand*

*cataract removed –  
my garden fresh and clear  
as 'the first morning';*

to the Anthology's commencing series of poems on the 'big picture' transforming figure of Jesus, as in 'Galilee' by Peter Stiles,

*he is radiant in readiness for an alabaster jar  
of perfumed praise to anoint him.  
For from his chosen poverty comes healing,  
and from his measured words comes peace.;*

then through change and transformation in nature and life experiences; as for example, in, 'The Butterfly', 'Seasons', 'Autumn renewal', 'Placed', and 'Confinement'. And to the 'ultimate picture', in 'Graceful and gentle', (the winning poem of the Poetica Christi Press Competition, 2022). How appropriate that this is the closing poem of this rewarding Anthology, with its elegiac, meditative tone, (an ironic subversion of Dylan Thomas's, 'Do not go gentle into that good night'), on the inevitable acceptance of, ... *old age concedes now/the closing of day* ... This is a most moving, humble, life (and death)-accepting poem, which resonates and lingers with the reader, as the poet's mother, (says) ... *My darlings, good night* –

*accepts now,  
– as we must –  
this dying of light.*

This Anthology, coming from the 2022 Competition, 'Transformation', is a comprehensive, varied and thoughtful collection; once again, as with previous Anthologies from Poetica Christi Press, beautifully produced and presented. As the Competition Judge, Dr Mark Garner, writes, *The reader who takes time to consider every poem carefully, enter into the experiences of the writers, and to ponder their personal relevance, will be richly rewarded.*