



Whetu Moana: Contemporary Polynesian Poetry in English

Robert Sullivan

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"Whetu Moana" is a historic work - the first anthology of contemporary indigenous Polynesian poetry in English edited by Polynesians. It is a broad anthology, showcasing a wide range of contemporary Pacific writing by both established poets and younger voices. This is a companion volume to the well-regarded "Nuanua: an anthology of Pacific writing in English since 1980" (published by AUP, 1995). This anthology of contemporary Polynesian poetry in English, edited by Polynesians, is comprised of poems written over the last 20 years by more than 60 poets from Aotearoa, Hawai'i, Tonga, Samoa, the Cook Islands, Niue and Rotuma. Well-known poets like Hone Tuwhare, Alistair Te Ariki Campbell and Haunani-Kay Trask are joined by younger voices. The poets appear in alphabetical order, representing both a collective Polynesian identity and a focus on individual style. Traditional laments mix with street-smart rap rhythms, images of seascape and landscape mingle with shots of urban slums, and the political stands alongside the personal. The impact is sometimes visual as well as verbal, with design and drawing accompanying the words. This anthology is a diverse collection of voices, confronting both a complex colonial past and a fast-moving global present.

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