

CARMEN VASCONES

**"I SPRANG FROM THE SEA"
FOR EVERY STAR YOU PLUCK
"THE LIGHTHOUSE BEAM LINGERS"
"MY TEARS ARE FILTERS FOR MY MEMORY"**

TRANSLATED BY ALEXIS LEVITIN

I sprang from the sea
not from the mouth of men
who spawned on me my children
with their brutal ways.

They buried deep my presence
not knowing who I am
I return to the tenderness of the waves.

FOR EVERY STAR YOU PLUCK

For every star you pluck
whether from the sand or from the sky
a man dies upon the earth

The lighthouse beam lingers
between the ocean's thighs
complete surrender
between silence and motion
pitch black
the gaze returns to nowhere
its light complicit
the spell remains till dawn.

And the sea beyond all reach.

My tears are filters for my memory
may they never end
so birds may flourish
so the rainbow may curve towards the earth
so the sea may not be quenched
so fire bombs won't set
the bodies of children aflame
so the sky may rest
so the forest may touch the wind
so you may feel the flow of water
on the skin you cover with my own
so I may love you in my own way