

## ***CONTENTS***

### ***PART I: INDIGO***

- Lament for the Boy Rafter / 3  
Mirage / 4  
Mother Under Water / 5  
When Leaving the Country of Your Birth / 6  
Blue Cuban / 7  
The Art of Raft Making / 8  
*Balsero* / Rafter / 9  
Moon Decima / 10  
Caribbean Catechism / 11  
After Kcho's *La columna infinita* / 12  
Hot House / 13  
Arabasques / 14  
Liminality / 15  
Vibrational Reciprocity / 16

***PART II: THE PAINTED BUNTING***

- Caribbean Dream Lexicon / 21  
Homing / 22  
Caribe / 23  
Havana Blue / 24  
Blue Line / 25  
A History of Rain / 26  
*La sangre llama* / 27  
After Lorca's "The Ballad of the Sleepwalker" / 28  
*Jaibas* / 29  
Days of Ornithology / 31  
My Mother's Mouth Fills with Water / 32  
Monsoon / 33  
Miami Beach / 35  
Night / 37  
Cuban Dream / 39  
Paul Klee Visits Santiago de Cuba / 40  
Dusk in the Tropics, a Parable of Light and Shadow / 41

### *PART III: EXEGESIS*

Repeating Island / 45

Alma Profundis / 46

Poem on the Anniversary of Elián González's Return to Cuba / 47

Recitative after G. de Chirico's *Les adieux éternels* / 48

Gesture / 49

The Mortician's Guayabera / 50

The Pentagonies / *Las pentagonias de* Reinaldo Arenas / 51

Ghazal of the Broken / 52

Wilfredo Lam at the Pantheon of the Paint Gods / 53

*Mariposas Negras*: My Mother's Return to Cuba / 54

Orthography / 55

Lotus Flower Balm, or Self Revelation with Praying Mantis Perched on

My Finger / 56

Claritas / 57

*Fantomas*, Master of Disguise / 58

Exegesis / 60

*PART IV: HYPERGRAPHIA*

Bad Sons Anonymous / 65

My Father, the Arsonist / 66

The Beautiful Light / 68

Bloodlines / 70

El Rio (Mississippi) / 72

Detroit Low-Down Canto / 74

Erasure / 76

Let Us Refresh (Alvarez Guedes's Ascension into Comedy Heaven) / 78

Poem on the 10th Anniversary of Janet Jackson's Nipple / 79

Harry Dean Stanton Is Dying / 81

The Lion Head Belt Buckle / 83

Alba Written at Bennington College / 85

Hypergraphia / 86

Acknowledgments            89