

you

CHANTAL NEVEU

translated by Erín Moure

Literature in Translation Series Book*hug Press Toronto, 2024

FIRST ENGLISH EDITION

Published originally under the title you © 2021 by Chantal Neveu and La Peuplade. This edition is published by arrangement with Éditions La Peuplade in conjunction with its duly appointed agent BAM, Paris, France.

English translation © 2024 by Erín Moure

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or any information storage or retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher.

Library and Archives Canada Cataloguing in Publication

Title: You / Chantal Neveu; translated by Erín Moure.

Other titles: You. English

Names: Neveu, Chantal, 1964- author. | Moure, Erín, 1955- translator.

Description: A poem. | Translation of: You.

Identifiers: Canadiana (print) 2023048087X | Canadiana (ebook)

2023048090X

ISBN 9781771668828 (softcover)

ISBN 9781771668842 (PDF)

ISBN 9781771668835 (EPUB)

Classification: LCC PS8577.E7597 Y5813 2024 | DDC C841/.54—dc23

The production of this book was made possible through the generous assistance of the Canada Council for the Arts and the Ontario Arts Council. Book*hug Press also acknowledges the support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Book Fund and the Government of Ontario through the Ontario Book Publishing Tax Credit and the Ontario Book Fund.

Cover image: Raw diamond in kimberlite (polyhedral in the rough)



Canada Council for the Arts Conseil des Arts









Book*hug Press acknowledges that the land on which it operates is the traditional territory of many nations, including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee, and the Wendat peoples. We also recognize the enduring presence of many diverse First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples and are grateful for the opportunity to meet and work on this territory.

first his breathing then his pupils

I watch his mouth

its furrows its swells

slight circle of his irises

from the dark hole a tube

he sees me

impulsion

an implicit programmatics

ascension

les façades le quartier

remanence of Rio

a yard a garden

the staircase

winding

its gradations

compelling

the maples

alongside

the black locusts

figuration of caresses

swirled rumour of a fountain

faint sound

metallic taste of the city

a magnetism

from palate to nostrils

infra-resonance

warm silver

low table

the flakes of fish

air under the studio ceiling

a loge

we make acquaintance

summer solstice alters the sky

we deflect curiosity by foreseeing questions

private

spheres

spontaneous revelation

the ineffable

freshness of a stream

are we already naked

bared

we expose ourselves

fluidity

gravity

propensity

the charm

the intimacy

premise of a banquet

Hephaistos

Aristophanes

vestiges Dionysiae vertigos

Empedocles

happiness

tenor of futures put to the test

at ease

we name

great loves

inflections

decades

les fidélités

promises made

offences injuries miracles

the enduring friendships

gaie santé

current genealogy

virtual group portrait

numerous

already

he stands up
draughts
the bamboo imbibe their fill of rainwater
transfer of delectation
euphoria
temptation reparation
congruency
catalysis

permissiveness

incursion

paradoxical privilege

we draw close

we kiss

convergence

watch bracelet undone

dressing table

time an invention

pulsebeats

the curve of the eyelids

we embrace

before

mirror

on my neck

a breath

you are my fantasy

mercurial drape of the curtains

prisms and photons

on the wall

gold

solid

gleaming

velvet at my feet

we revolutionize

the air

between

the legs

we move

are we sleeping

introspective meditation at night

dawn will demand more of us

a disclosure a declaration

I came to make love

fabulous dissolution of a troubling sobriety

mysteries

miseries

topology of fluids

continuum of confidences

an irreducible love

his wife

recognized value of cumulative years

hard work of facing challenges

a visceral hold

an apprehensiveness

devotion

she wants to die in my arms

contiguity