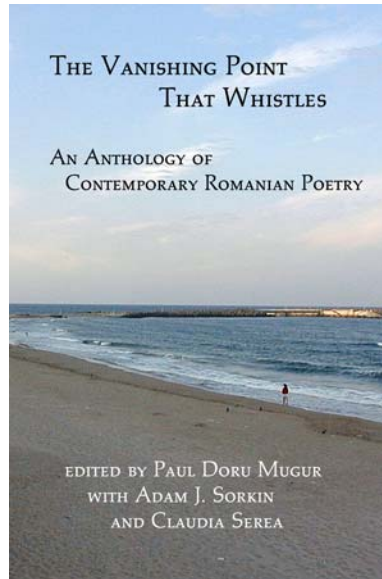


THE VANISHING POINT THAT WHISTLES

AN ANTHOLOGY OF CONTEMPORARY ROMANIAN POETRY

edited by Paul Doru Mugur with Adam J. Sorkin and Claudia Serea



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**A major selection of one of the most dynamic poetries
taking shape in the world today**

Contemporary Romanian poetry is one of the most significant literary phenomena in Eastern Europe of the post-communist decades. With an almost reckless urgency, young Romanian poets reject the verbal games of the self-conscious postmodernism of their predecessors, the infinite textual mirrors of deconstruction, by dropping any pretense to a privileged, high-culture poetic discourse. Out with stylistic pirouettes and embroideries, rhythms and rhymes, away with poetic language along with its distortions and lies about experience and human nature that seem too comfortably in congruity with the deposed, moribund social order. Instead, they turn their attention to the anti-lyrical banality of day-to-day life, including its squalor and triviality, yet also to the myriad of little pleasures and the fragments of miracle that typically go unnoticed in humdrum human existence. They express this vision – with its fundamental resistance to anything visionary – by means of an unadorned argot that oscillates between violence and

miserabilism on one hand, and a minimalist "langue des enfants et des anges" on the other. The only solution for contemporary poets is to renounce poetry; miraculously, from its vanishing point, poetry arises anew like the phoenix, grown livelier, more honest, freer than ever.

"Waking up from a familiar nightmare into an unknown reality is not for the faint-hearted. More than two decades after the world and the poetry that buzzed in it shattered, Romanian poets are putting on lab coats, turning on recording devices, scouring the web they broadcast on, photoshopping bits and pieces of shards and routine, and questioning the tragic undertone of the hardwired lament in a culture that questions itself incessantly. Anyone able to hear the sound this poetry makes will be rewarded with a sharpening of their own tools of perception." —*Andrei Codrescu*

"Today's young Romanian poets couldn't care less about literary theories and aesthetics and no longer show any interest for taxonomies, generations, trends and groups, the hierarchy of value. For them, poetry is a basal instinct, unsophisticated, like the reflex of breathing or vomiting. Immediate, ethical, political, above all else existential, their poetry is a dense texture of individual fibers grown uninhibited like the wild life itself." —*Mircea Cărtărescu*

"While reading *Vanishing Point That Whistles*, the Latin word 'artus' came to mind: related to anatomy, it indicates a joint; symbolically the word refers to strength or power (and, poetically, to the limbs). My feeling is that this anthology of new Romanian poetry exists as an important 'artus' point: a place where one historical/literary tradition bends into another. At the same time it's a locus of strength, with a natural ability to reach powerfully outward. Even more, though, it's a source of pure reading pleasure from one of the world's most poetic places. If you haven't yet gotten acquainted with the brilliance of contemporary Romanian poetry, enter here." —*Sharon Mesmer*

"This Romanian poetry arrives in the 21st century like a much needed remedy for the excessive stylistic inventions that seem to accompany what is soon becoming an almost universal postmodern aesthetic. It's a book that I'd want my graduate students of poetry and literary translation to read." —*Roger Sedarat*

"The poetry included in this volume reflects the alienation and the crisis of communication brought by the so-called "transition" period of the last twenty years in Romania from the beginning of the post-communist period in 1990 to the close of the first decade of the twenty-first century. This twenty-year span was defined not only by uncertainty and fears, social inequities and misery, but also by both an enthusiasm and

a hope for the future that the recent inclusion of Romania in the European Union made real." —from the introduction by Paul Doru Mugur

Poetry by Cristian Popescu, Ioan Es. Pop, Mihail Gălățanu, Daniel Bănulescu, Floarea Țuțuianu, Radu Andriescu, Simona Popescu, Emilian Galaicu-Păun, Ruxandra Cesereanu, O. Nimigean, Constantin Acosmei, Nicolae Coande, Mihai Ignat, Marius Ianuș, Dumitru Crudu, Adina Dabija, Ștefan Bălan, Teodor Dună, Ruxandra Novac, Mugur Grosu, George Vasilievici, Ioana Nicolaie, Radu Vancu, Andrei Peniuc, Dan Sociu, Adrian Urmanov, Răzvan Țupa, Claudiu Komartin, Elena Vlădăreanu, Dan Coman, Miruna Vlada, V. Leac, Svetlana Cârstea, T.S. Khasis, Gabi Eftimie, Marius Conkan, Andrei Gamarț, Michel Martin, Aida Hancer, and Anonymous.

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