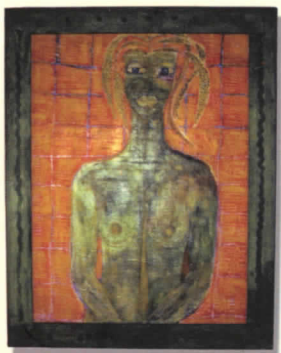


Robert Berrouët-Oriol

THÒRAYA,
The Ink Field
Poetry



English translation by Carrol F. Coates

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Robert Berrouët-Oriol is a linguist and poet who has published in numerous journals in Canada, France, Haiti, and the United States. His theoretical work has been focused, in part, on migratory and mestizo writing as well as on "francopolyphonie," various modes of discourse based in French. In *Thoraya*, *The Ink Field*, his second volume of poetry, he weaves, with his loom of many colors and his multiple voices--lyrical and baroque--images embracing sacred domains along with complex, sedimentary layers of identity, memory, writing, and landscapes of the mind.

Carrol F. Coates first worked with Robert Berrouët-Oriol by translating several texts from *Lettres urbaines* for the first of two special issues on Haitian literature and culture, published by Callaloo in Spring 1992. That translation, like that of *Thoraya*, was the result of true collaboration, given the linguistic thesaurus and the diverse visions that Berrouët-Oriol carries in his head. Coates has published translations of several Haitian and African novels, including René Depestre, *The Festival of the Greasy Pole* (1990), two novels by Jacques Stephen Alexis, *General Sun*, *My Brother* (1999) and *In the Flicker of an Eyelid* (in collaboration with Edwidge Danticat, 2002), and Ahmadou Kourouma, *Waiting for the Vote of the Wild Animals* (2001).

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THÒRAYA,
The Ink Field

Table of Contents

I. MITAN DU CENS

- 1. Caraïbe dissidence11
- 2. Incunable25
- 3. Matricielle41

II. DE SOIE, L'EXIL

- 4. Stellaire61
- 5. Muettelement lamandou79
- 6. Thòraya, d'encre le champ83
- 7. Fragmentaire99
- 8. Sédiments d'encre.....127