

Miia Paani: Tuulet vastaan

Original title: Tuulet vastaan
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The name of Miia Paani's collection of aphoristic poetry is *Tuulet vastaan*, which is translateable in many ways; such as "the winds we face", "you blow toward me", or "I answer the winds". This book contains brief lyrical meditations with many levels of meaning, combining the conceptual with the physiological through inexhaustible experience: broad landscapes, everyday crannies and nooks.

"A school is a building with many classes."

However, *Tuulet vastaan* is not like any typical book of aphorisms. It also includes expanded poetic expression that stretches the possibilities of contemporary literature.

"As the spring loves ice and winter does summer
I love you
and the dream in which you move."

Tuulet vastaan is Miia Paani's fourth collection. Her work has also been featured in many literary media, including an anthology of erotic poetry, *Olet täyttänyt ruumiini tulella* ("You have filled my body with fire", WSOY 2017). *Tuulet vastaan* was well-received critically. The book's layout, cover art, and illustrations are all by graphic designer Sara Ahtola from Oulu.

Selected reviews:

"Paani writes her selfhood as part of a chain of female generations. Connections to the tradition of historical women authors are shown through references."
(Sinikka Carlson, from a history of Northern Finland's literary history, in the book *Nimeämätöntä varten* (Nihil Interit 1996))

"The intensity of Paani's world is reminiscent of [poet Eeva-Liisa] Manner: images and rhythms are conjured from the experience of womanhood that are at once warm and cold, bright and shadowy, comforting and fierce; their philosophical aphoristic quality arises from reality *par excellence*.

...

The poetic phrasing lifts and drops the poems whole-heartedly on the reader's skin, down from the cold and glistening heights of aesthetics as though modernism — after the likes of Manner, [Paavo] Haavikko, [Tomas] Tranströmer, [Mirkka] Rekola, and [Sirkka] Turkka — were blooming to become folk poetry, here and now."
(Jarkko Lauri, in *Kaltio* magazine, writing about Paani's collection *Puut juurilla ja naiset* (ntamo 2010))

"... Calcified attitudes are broken. The themes are eternal, the mode unconventional. ..."
(Liisa Enwald, in *Elämäntarina* magazine, writing about Paani's collection *Tuulet vastaan* (ntamo 2018))

Synopsis translated by Kasper Salonen.