

preface

MOST POETS ARE DEAD.

Probably most of the poetry you've read in school is by poets who lived a long way away and a long time ago.

But not all poets are dead, thank goodness. Some of them live right here in Hong Kong. Perhaps the woman in front of you in the ATM queue or sitting next you on the minibus is one of the poets in this book.

Poetry is perhaps the most immediate of art forms. Poets can and do write about the things, people and places we see around us and experience every day: buses, ice cream, parents, school, love, shopping ...

This collection includes poems from some of Hong Kong's better-known poets — poets whose books you'll find in the bookstores and poets who regularly appear at poetry and literature festivals here and around the world.

The collection includes poems that rhyme, and those that don't; poems with correct grammar and punctuation, and some without; poems that are square, and some that aren't. Some poems have hidden jokes (look at the titles, for example), some have to be read backwards. Some poems are funny, others will make you think. Some poems look more like paragraphs than poems.

But mostly, these poems are about us. You'll probably recognise people and places and emotions that you know.

David McKirdy & Peter Gordon, editors
Hong Kong, January 2005