

Like Wislawa Szymborska and Zbigniew Herbert, Hamutal Bar-Yosef is NOT interested in the big booming cymbal crashes of the Moralist standing on the mountaintop and sternly shaking a finger at human foible and depravity. Instead, she focuses on the smaller but critically important domestic moments in our lives, in which fate and personal temperament collude and collide. Her poems are little miracles of personal revelation, one in which shrewd knowledge of self and the world underpins her poetic integrity. That said, there's nothing remotely miniaturist or quietist in her poems. Always they bleed into the political, the social, and the historical. Bitingly ironic and possessed of a subtle wit, she's a consummate master of an hospitable, open style.

—Tom Sleigh