

August 2024

The selection presented to our poetry group in 2019 was intuitive: amongst the constant themes of anger, pain, of death and misery, it sought variety in form and style.

This time, it's taken several iterations to refine the themes: love and sex, poetics, the moon: it's required closer attention to the contributions of the four women.

Zheng Xiaoqiong is prolific: three of her poems are included. Wu Xia's smiling face, and the gentle femininity of her *Sundress*, appear in much of the online marketing for *Iron Moon* the film.

For me, the most radical poem in the collection is also Wu Xia's:

*Who Can Forbid My Love*

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