

ABSTRACT

THE BONES IN OUR WORDS

“There are bones in words” is a Chinese idiom that means words have meanings that we can choke on, so we must be careful of what we say.

This collection reflects the problems of language not only in meaning making but also in the making of the individual and community. We construct ourselves in the arbitrary realm of language, which in the end leads us to personal isolation.

This collection begins with the creation and exploration of language in Part One. Part Two is a series of traditional translations from Spanish. Part Three is made of five poems that I will call Arbitrary Transiterations. Each poem is named after a Beidao poem. I used the original Chinese characters to arbitrarily translate by what they looked like they mean along with some knowledge of Chinese. Part Four is China travel poems. Part Five ends the collection with atrophy and aphasia.

Donavan Thomas Ingram
May 2004