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ILONA WENEK-ZIEMBA

Asylbewerber Aus Polen (2)*

I too have my Berlin

my Berlin it's the nightmares from the drawings of Kathe Kolwitz

it's a holy picture upside-down

a telephone booth in flames the clanging of chains and Breakfast On The Street

my Berlin it's escaping

with a Polish passport in my pocket

at the sound of police car sirens

it's the naked bodies of thin girls and the roar of tam-tams in Victoriapark

it's craters in the sidewalks by the coloured wall and a profaned Pope in an art gallery

Kreuzberg the memento of pink hair

that lies to the East

of me

* *The title translates to English as "Refugee Claimant from Poland."*

Notes:

"Kathe Kolwitz" - German expressionist painter

"Breakfast On The Street" - anarchist demonstration I witnessed in West Berlin

"Victoriapark" - green area in Kreuzberg

"Kreuzberg" - a very special part of former West Berlin, populated mostly by anarchists, punks, German army defectors, and immigrants

Ilona is an artist and poet who came to Canada in 1990 from Poland. In 1999, she was nominated for YMCA-YWCA Women of Distinction Award in the Arts Category in Ottawa. Currently, she is working on her spoken word and music CD based on her poetry book The Conquering of Selene. She lives in Aylmer Quebec with her husband and their four children.



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