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# POETRY OF ALEXANDRA POLLOCK

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## A lone flower

A three million year old a musical instrument  
was found in Iran.  
The hand which taught its soul to sing  
long gone;  
a lone flower now blooms in its place...

## Kuwait 1986 – Magic City--Echoes from the Past

Far from the soft green land that once had been an Eden  
where the wadi now runs dry,  
across the desert sands I flew.  
I saw tall metal skeletons.  
Like soldiers in a never ending line  
on long thin legs they seemed to march in giant steps.  
They - and the power-lines they carried -  
a symbol of our hard material age..

Across the desert sands I flew  
and saw the lights of a phantom city on your distant shore  
drawing the blood of Mammon  
Black liquid gold from deep below the sand -  
blood of the fire that was soon to flood your land.

Magic lights at night I saw on the distant shore  
when on weekends  
alive and happy  
we raced along the highway  
after swimming in the clear warm waters of the Arabian sea.

I called it the city of 2001 -  
but it was a chimera -  
a Fata Morgana of iron and steel.  
A thousand years hence  
where will it be?

A thousand years? -  
Less than 3 years it was

before giant black tanks raged across the desert  
less than 3 years it was before the blood of fire -  
black oil from the bowels of the earth,  
touched by the evil hand of man -  
exploded and infernal fires raged across the desert sands.

Unleashed by wrath and greed this black thick mass -  
life blood of the earth and fire,  
spread across the surface of sea  
and choked all life within it.

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## A Paper Doll

A paper doll was found floating in the fountain.  
The path below the fountain receded,  
blending into the deep green all around,  
a fine line fading in the distance...  
the line dividing past from present,  
death from life.

She leant forward slightly  
as if weightless and let herself fall.  
Deep water: embrace it!  
Back into the sea,  
back into space before time,  
back to the source of life - to die.

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Originally from Austria, **Alexandra Pollock** lived in Australia for 15 years then came to Canada in 1963. In 1982 she graduated from Concordia University in Montreal with a BA in TESL and an MA in Special Programs in Education. I subsequently taught English in the adult education program both at McGill University and for the Montreal school board, as well as doing some part-time translation (German-English). In 1985 I took a teaching job at Kuwait University. Following the invasion of Kuwait in 1990 I returned to the Gulf and taught English at Bahrain University for the next 4 years.