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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.

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.