

University of Macau

Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities

Department of English

A Crossing of Waters

A Dialogical Study of Contemporary Indigenous Women's Poetry

Portfolio consisting of Creative Work and Dissertation

Volume I

Submitted by

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Parts of the Portfolio

The thesis is a portfolio consisting of two parts:

1) The first part is the candidate's own creative (poetic) work in the form of a book manuscript. The actual bilingual (in English and Chinese) book of poems, *Lost in the Afternoon* was published by ASM in Macao in 2009. Because both texts were composed by the author, neither should properly be considered a translation, but as individual poem. However, the poems facing each other in English and Chinese do have intertextual relationships. Together, they create a dialogic relationship between languages.

2) The second part is a dissertation, an essay in the form of a comparative study of poems by contemporary indigenous women poets in Australia and China, written with the aim to examine how identity is manifested in dialogue.

3) Along with the parts of the thesis proper are two appendixes. The first appendix is the candidate's English translation of Chinese minority women's poetry, made with the assistance of the supervisor. Translating the works of Chinese minority women poets into English is crucial for this thesis. Because the lack of materials in English makes it necessary for the candidate to take on the task in order to supply 'raw material' for her study. The second appendix is the candidate's Chinese translation of Australian Aboriginal women's poetry. Chinese translation of the poetry of Australian Aboriginal poet Yvette Holt was published in *Fires Rumoured about the*

City – Anthology of Contemporary Australian Poets by ASM in 2009. One aim of this thesis is to introduce the poetry of each side to the readers from the other language/culture. This aim is achieved by translating contemporary indigenous women's poetry in both directions—English to Chinese, Chinese to English.

There is a close relationship among the parts of the portfolio. They are three stages of a cyclic dialogic process. Each stage has a different function in the whole project. By reading to translate to inspire the candidate, by translating inspirational work so that it can be read in another context of culture, by writing poetry inspired by work the candidate has translated, her own internal (cross-cultural) dialogue is facilitated. These stages altogether provide the experiential structure of the thesis.

