

## Poetry

### Anne Carson

*Anne Carson teaches Greek for a living, previously at Princeton and presently at McGill University in Montreal. An anthology of her collected works, Plain Water, will be brought out by Knopf this year. She will appear as co-host on a PBS television documentary, The Nobel Legacy, to be released this October.*

### Hokusai

Anger is a bitter lock.  
But you can turn it.  
Hokusai at age 83

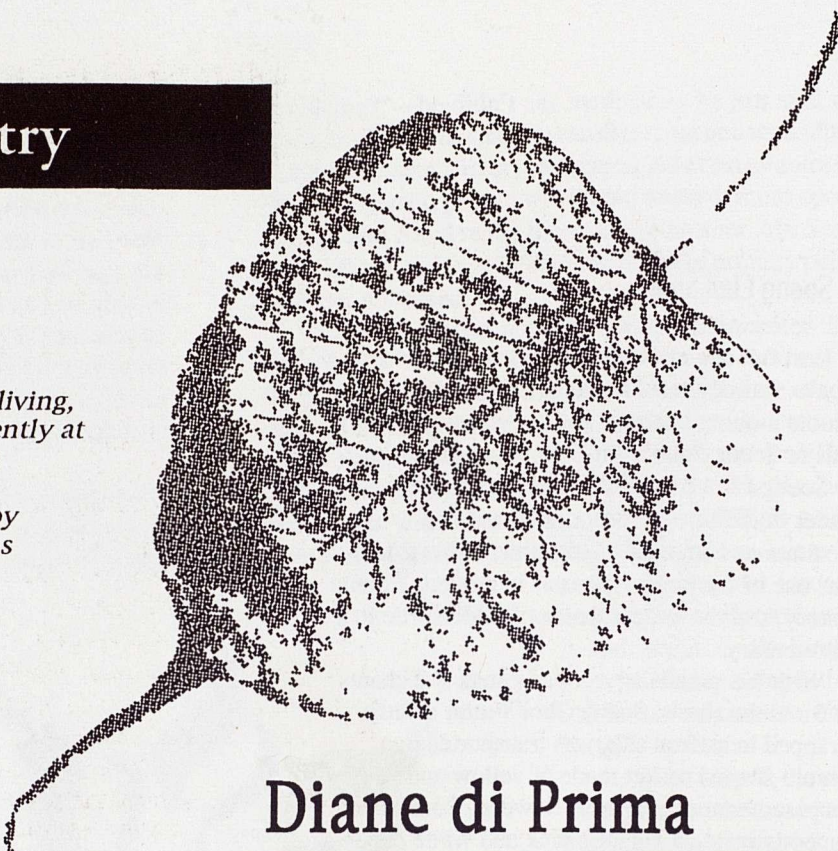
said to himself,  
It is time to do my lions.  
Every morning thereafter

until death he made a lion,  
219 of them.  
Wind gusting from the northwest

as lions swayed and leapt from the crests  
of the pine trees  
onto the snowy road  
or crashed

together over his hut their white paws  
mauling stars on the way down.  
I continue to draw

hoping for a peaceful day,  
said Hokusai  
as they thudded past.



### Diane di Prima

*Diane di Prima lived and wrote in Manhattan for many years, where she became a significant figure in the Beat movement. For the past twenty-five years she has lived and worked in northern California, where she studied Zen Buddhism, raised five children, and now practices Vajrayana. She has taught poetry at the Naropa Institute for many years. Her Selected Poems was published by North Atlantic in 1976. She is currently at work on an autobiographical memoir, My Life as a Woman.*

### Death Poems in October

1  
far from home  
the gold leaves fall  
I too must lie here

2  
break off mid-sentence  
to cough  
one last time

3  
turn off the fan  
I want to hear my heart  
before it stops