

JARZĘBINA THE MOUNTAIN ASH

Jesienią,

In the fall, the mountain ash
jarzębina w ogrodzie to wielokolorowy sen na jawie:
is a technicolour dream: orange-red berry clusters—
złoto-czerwone kiście koralu— jak barwne rogi obfitości,
vibrant cornucopia horns, leaves
liście we wszystkich odcieniach karmazynu.
in every shade of vermilion.

O zimowym poranku,

On a snowy winter morning, it's an exploding snowball,
to rozpryskująca się kula śnieżna, gigantyczny fajerwerk z puszystej bieli,
a giant firework of fluffy white, a thousand-legged tarantula caught in a blizzard.
stonożna tarantula uwięziona w zamieci.

Wczesną wiosną,

In early spring, with winter still holding on,
gdy mróz jeszcze trzyma, gromady sikorek i jemiotuszek
chickadees and waxwings descend in a feathery cloud,
osiadają jak pierzaste chmury, uradowane koralikową kafeterią.
chirping and trilling at the berry bounty.

Latem,

In the summer, sunlight and wind dance
słońce i wiatr tańczą walca w labiryncie szmaragdowych liści,
through the kaleidoscope of jade and emerald foliage, and I sway in my hammock
a ja bujam się w hamaku w zielonym, plecionym cieniu jarzębiny.
in the green green shade of the mountain ash tree.

EWA KOLACZ - ARTIST STATEMENT

Here I am, a mortal enemy of code-switching. For the last thirty years, I've worked hard on perfecting my English and always thought it was imperative not to mix up English and Polish. But here I am, now, playing with both languages as if they were equal. Decentralizing English, as they say. The "Jarzębina / The Mountain Ash" poem can be read four ways: two ways horizontally, two vertically. Horizontal reading unveils the poem in a single language—if you start in the left column and read every other line, you will read the full poem in English; if you start on the right and read every other line, you will get the full Polish version. Each vertical column reads bilingually, fully code-switching through the poem. It's like a tapestry, with interwoven threads. The photographs on the previous page are of the mountain ash tree in my garden, taken in each of the four seasons, later processed through the kaleidoscope filter in the Photo Booth app.