

AUTUMN GRASSES, 2003

The inspiration for most of the poems in *Autumn Grasses* was a daily engagement calendar that features the art of Japan — screens, hanging scrolls, painted silks, wood-block prints. In the dynamic stillness of this new visual field, Margaret Gibson steps away from the merely personal — “No one’s home” — to write poems that dip and swoop with the unguarded ease of birds in flight, verse as fluid and seamless as the movement of day to night, season to season. Trusting the power of unknowing, of imagination, these poems are delicate reminders of English-based forms filled with the spirit of Zen.

Autumn Grasses is both elegant and spontaneous, vivid and wise. Gibson’s rapt engagement with Japanese art has produced swift insight, detail that dazzles, a voice that can range from the serene to the earthy, always with a commitment to seeing each thing as it is, entering each moment with presence and zest.

“... accessible and utterly compelling” -- Rain Taxi