

# Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

## Teresa Mei Chuc: Four Poems

Teresa Mei Chuc · Tuesday, July 18th, 2023

### Monsoon

People who live in regions  
of monsoons know that everything  
you build is transitory

Palm and bamboo huts on stilts  
could be washed away  
and broken by a wave

So they build knowing  
how many times they must rebuild

\*

### Ace of Spades

*Vi?t Nam War*

There were 1,000 Ace of Spades cards pulled from the production line  
by the U.S. card company and shipped overseas at no cost for American soldiers to use.

Decks of pure 52 Ace of Spades cards were produced. A Death Deck.  
Mothers sent them to their sons.

An Ace of Spades card was left on the forehead of a Vietnamese person killed.  
U.S. military tactic to instill fear in the people fighting to defend their homeland.

It is time to show our hands.

\*

### The Two-Headed Fish

that the poor Vietnamese family  
eats or they will starve,

haunts me.  
It floats in the air  
like some kind of monster  
in the night while I sleep.

Decades after the war,  
Agent Orange  
is still transforming  
the genetics of the fish  
in our rivers.

\*

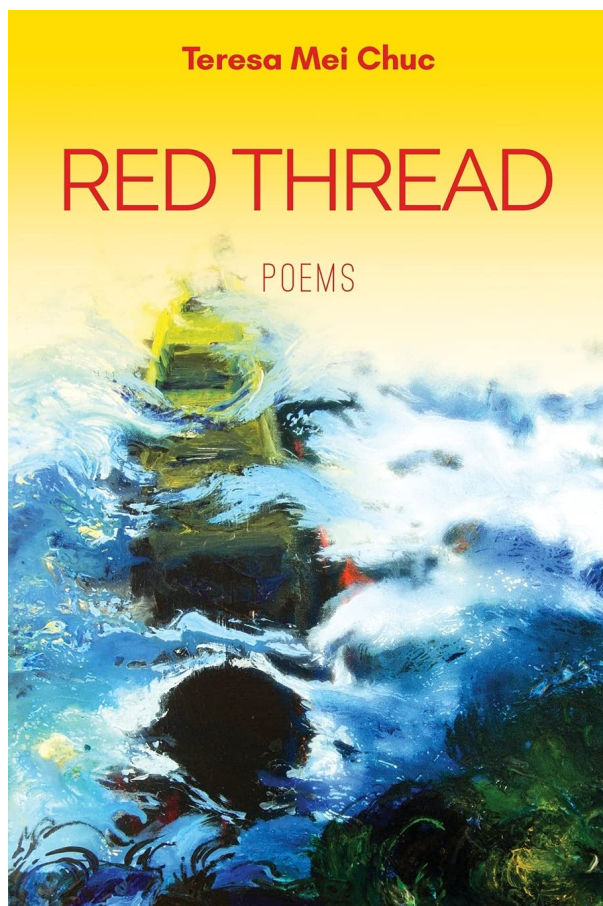
## cu?ng r?n

*umbilical cord*

my mother says  
that my umbilical cord  
was given to the land

buried in Vi?t Nam  
part of me a part of the earth  
there forever

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*Red Thread* by Teresa Mei Chuc

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