

## POETRY

*SRIYA KUMARASINGHE*<sup>1</sup>

### **Foreseen Tomorrow**

*3 July 2006*  
*(Translated from Sinhala)*

Bush in winter  
Like a bush in summer  
After a bush fire

Leafless branches  
Human skeletons  
Decayed in famine

Sun-touched lake  
Lattice-worked mud  
Baked in cold

Surprised to see  
A white flower  
At an edge of a twig

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<sup>1</sup> Sri Lankan born Sriya Kumarasinghe (kumeg768@student.otago.ac.nz) has been working as a senior lecturer at the University of Sri Jayewardenepure from where she graduated. After spending some time in Japan as a postgraduate student, she moved to New Zealand in 1999 as a permanent resident. Thrilled by the natural beauty of Aotearoa, she started writing poems, song lyrics and short stories, which have been published in many countries including Sri Lanka, Japan, Australia, Canada, the UK and Cyprus. Currently, she lives in Dunedin and working on her first novel while continuing research at the University of Otago.

Looked curiously  
Only a polythene bag  
Hurled by wind

Foreseen tomorrow  
Celebrates artificiality  
And the death of nature

### **Japanese Garden in a Foreign Land**

*26 September 2006*

Two crosses of the Torii  
Holding the universe  
Sharing minds

Rounded rocks  
Add a rhythm to the  
Song of water

In the known landscape  
Touching in breeze  
Unknown trees

Slowly sinking sun  
Glow softly on  
Stone lantern

Bounded cultures  
Boundless nature

### **Banana Tree in a Glass House**

*20 September 2006*

On sunny breezy Sundays  
I go to the botanic garden  
There is a banana tree  
Inside the tropical house

Fat but smaller leaves  
Stem is shorter than me

A few ripening bananas  
Like teeth in disorder

I gaze with blurring eyes  
Thinking of banana bushes  
Grown rich and drenched in rain  
Behind my far away home