POETRY

SRIYA KUMARASINGHE

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

1 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
Glows 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