

**War Bride / *phyllis goldin***

the current of time  
choked with lifeless hearts  
war brides  
helpless, senseless, overcome  
I am one of them  
married to this intruder  
George W. Bush  
over two years now  
I didn't even go to the wedding  
dolloed up in *peau de soi* and lace  
veil misgivings  
didn't wreck my feet  
dancing in three-inch satin heels  
devour a roast chicken dinner  
complete with pale gravy  
overcooked beans, cake  
loaded with buttery swirls and roses  
no honeymoon either  
this guy took me  
into immediate slavery  
chained me to his war  
roared sour nothings in my ear  
I was a good catch  
came with a dowry  
carefully saved from  
years of wrinkling work  
he took this for his war too  
as if I were chattel  
my un-chosen husband  
alone declares  
the state of our union  
why didn't anyone  
jump up, show just cause  
why this marriage should be denied  
make the obvious argument that  
I agreed to nothing

signed no certificate  
swore no oath  
my lips sealed with his cross  
I am not a citizen of this union  
not comforted  
that he has a harem of  
women and men withering  
on twisted branches  
vanishing in a pool of terror  
while he feeds his arrogance  
doesn't bother to count  
the war brides