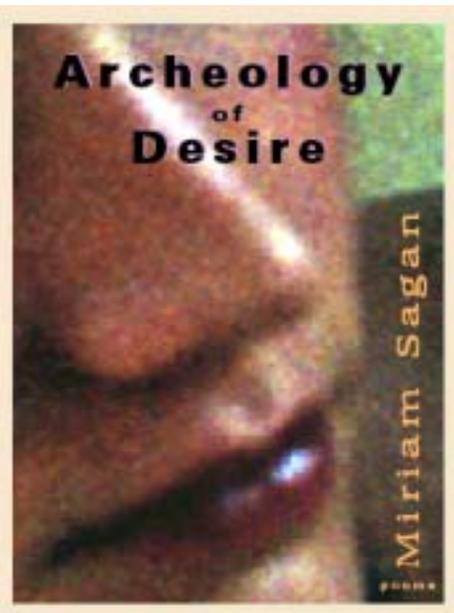


“When Miriam Sagan casts her imaginative eye on something, it stares back.”

— Southwest Book Views



Archeology of Desire

poems by

Miriam Sagan

Cuneiform, stars pressed into wet clay of the sky,
A cache of tablets
Archeologists hoped
Were the poetry of Babylon
Instead were exclusively
Bookkeeping, court records, accounts of boundary lines.

Come over and eat sunspots with me
Or two eggs fried sunny side up
All day, I pop time like vitamins

“Music in Sagan is both heard and unheard—the hidden ‘orchestras’ of nature always enrich, as do formal compositions by Bartok and Mahler. In a brief poem, Sagan’s talent for telescoping the exalted and the mundane is very moving . . . The concluding mundane image seems to enhance rapture: ‘One toe has worn its way / Through your frugal sock.’ To be memorable, transcendence must touch the sock and rock solid loam of human experience. Sagan’s poetic voice is unique.”

—Robert Peters, *American Book Review* Contributing Editor

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