

## Anca Vlasopolos

Ground

I'm eating jam made by the children  
and grandchildren of those who killed my people

perhaps these bitter black cherries made palatable  
grow in the very ground where blood has seeped

I'm wearing clothes made by nearly starving women  
on pretty-sounding islands

and buying electronics made with parts  
salvaged by people who take out heavy metals

with no protective gear or thought of what's to come  
when they dump what's too broken in the river

is there any corner of this our habitation  
where we have not enriched the earth with flesh

bones blood ours and the other life's  
where we can pick the apple and innocently bite

**Anca Vlasopolos** has been published *The New Bedford Samurai* (Twilight Times Books, 2007)—Literature for the Environment Award; *Penguins in a Warming World* (Ragged Sky Press, 2007)—three poems nominated for a Pushcart Award; *No Return Address: A Memoir of Displacement* (Columbia University Press, 2000), awarded the YMCA Writer's Voice Grant for Creative Non-Fiction in 2001, the Wayne State University Board of Governors Award and the Arts Achievement Award in 2002; a poetry e-chapbook, *Sidereal and Closer Griefs* ([www.origamicondom.org](http://www.origamicondom.org)), chapbooks, *Through the Straits, at Large* and *The Evidence of Spring*; and a detective novel, *Missing Members* (trans. *Miembros Ausentes*, Madrid, 2008); as well as over two hundred poems and short stories, in *Goblin Fruit*, *Origami Condom*, *Terrain*, *The Rambler*, *Porcupine*, *Poetry International*, *Barrow Street*, *Adagio*, *Avatar*, *Nidus*, *Short Story*, *Natural Bridge*, *Center*, *Evansville Review*, *Santa Barbara Review*, etc. ***Arts at an Exhibition*** and ***The Poetry Harmonium***, music and poetry compact disc collaboration with composer Christian Kreipke