

Layered

**What I Learned
in Galicia**

Lau Cesarco Eglin



Layered

I'm 50 years ago all the time
transforming into lives that belong
in the same stitch but are torn
apart by what I understand. Fail to.

I'm 50 years ago all the time
all my life. My lives. This one
that whispers softly under the everyday. Breath
infused by the flow I barely
perceive. I'm learning the language,
and by trying so hard
I push the whisper away:
Out of reach, this form of knowing.

I'm 50 years ago all the time
unraveling in the evasive.
A moment
of being in the continuous
balance between awake and asleep,
privy to magic—what is revealed
before me, within
is the present.

What I Learned in Galicia

I enjoy eating strawberries as much
as I saw you know when it was time
to bring them in from the garden,
bite into them fully, forgetting
everything else that is not
part of the word *ripe*.

Real is much more than just there.
Real is a different side of existing and royal.

Dirt and summer ran through
the colander holes and I
was not sure if strawberries tasted
more or less real after you washed them,
or what happens to real when it's not
tangible and edible and with you.

Lau Cesarco Eglin

Laura Cesarco Eglin is a poet and translator from Uruguay. She is the author of three collections of poetry and four chapbooks, including *Time/Tempo: The Idea of Breath* (PRESS 254, 2022), *Life, One Not Attached to Conditionals* (Thirty West Publishing House, 2020) and *Reborn in Ink*, translated by Catherine Jagoe and Jesse Lee Kercheval (The Word Works, 2019). Cesarco Eglin translates from Spanish, Portuguese, Portuguese, and Galician. She is the translator of *Of Death. Minimal Odes* by the Brazilian author Hilda Hilst (co•im•press), winner of the 2019 Best Translated Book Award in Poetry. She co-translated from the Portuguese Fabián Severo's *Night in the North* (Eulalia Books, 2020). *claus and the scorpion*, Cesarco Eglin's translation from Galician of Lara Dopazo Ruibal's poetry collection, is forthcoming from co•im•press in 2022. Cesarco Eglin is the co-founding editor and publisher of Veliz Books and teaches creative writing at the University of Houston-Downtown. She can be found at lauracesarcoeglin.com