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‘These fragments I have shored against my ruins’: The city in first books of Philippine poetry in English, 1998-2008

This paper is one of a series of studies on contemporary Philippine poetry in English, exploring in particular debut collections by Filipino poets published from 1998 to 2008, a decade that begins at the tail end of *A Habit of Shores* (1999), the final installment of Gemino H. Abad’s three-volume anthology spanning roughly a hundred years of “Filipino Poetry and Verse from English,” by far the most extensive mapping out of Philippine poetic terrain. It describes various approaches to the method of collage, with the fragment as its unit, as employed by young Filipino poets, and examines this stylistic device in relation to the poets’ decidedly urban preoccupations and sensibilities. It investigates notions of clarity and coherence in writing as problematized by poetry in, of, and about the city.