

emptiness

asian poems 1998–2012

JOHN MATEER

ABOUT THE BOOK

From the teeming cities of Singapore, Tokyo and Beijing to the quiet of a Malaccan street, a Honshu mountain or even a Malay cemetery in Cape Town, Mateer's journeys are out into the unknown world and deep into the mind. Like the early twentieth century French poet and archaeologist Victor Segalen, who is key to the book's later poems on China, Mateer always affirms the power and pleasure of the foreign.

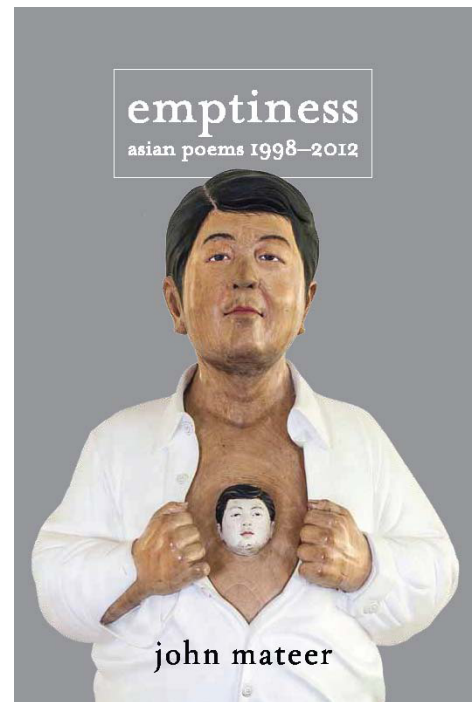
Emptiness: Asian Poems 1998–2012 is a companion volume to *The West: Australian Poems 1989–2009*.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

John Mateer has published books of poems in Australia, Austria, Portugal and the UK, and smaller collections in South Africa, Indonesia, Japan and Macau. World Literature Today has called him 'the most recent reincarnation of the international poet'. His latest books published in Australia are *The West: Australian Poems 1989–2009*, *Southern Barbarians* and *Unbelievers*, or 'The Moor'. Forthcoming are volumes translated into several European languages and Malay.

KEY POINTS

- John Mateer has been a guest at the Perth Writers Festival, Poetry Africa (South Africa), Word without Borders (Czech Republic), Festival of Poetry and Wine (Slovenia), Stockholm Poetry Festival, Galle Literary Festival (Sri Lanka), Ubud Literary Festival (Indonesia), PEN's Free the Word (UK), International Meeting of Poets (Portugal), Wordfeast (Singapore), Festival of International Poetry: Towards the Pacific Rim (Tokyo).
- He has published six books with Fremantle Press including *Barefoot Speech*, which won the 2001 Victorian Premier's prize for poetry.
- *Southern Barbarians* (Giramondo, 2013) was shortlisted for the Victorian and New South Wales premiers' prizes and for the Prime Minister's award for poetry.
- Mateer was a recipient of the Centenary Medal for his contribution to Australian literature in 2003.



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