OH! THE LOVE & THE PAIN

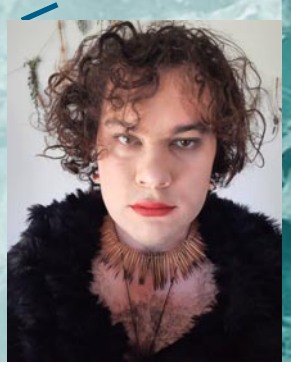
for Keri Hulme *after their poem* 'Aue te aroha me te mamae'

Cobalt Poets Series # 539 ~ August 30, 2022

the sun is sleepwalking through a quiet day e kare
the warm sea massages clay back onto the cliffs e kare
it looks like the world is building itself up to something
the waves e kare hang the kelp around their necks
crabs empty their shells of food before finding
a place they call home
a gull unbreaks its neck in the churn of the currents
comes back alive squawking
e kare

the sea and the land passing lives between themselves like little gifts
in the turbulence
e kare

ESSA MAY RANAPIRI



essa may ranapiri (Ngāti Wehi Wehi, Te Arawa, Ngāti Pukeko, Clan Gunn) is a poet living on the lands of Ngāti Wairere. They have a great love for language, LAND BACK and hot chips. Their first book of poetry ransack was published in 2019. *Echidna*, their second book, was published in 2022 through Te Herenga Waka University Press. They will write until they're dead. (they/ia)