A poet must speak the truth,

even if it will burn like magnesium.
A poet must speak the truth,
Even if it will burn like phosphorus.

A poet must speak the truth,
even if it means ending like Socrates
who was forced to drink hemlock.
A poet must speak the truth,
even if it means an ending like Neruda
who died before going into exile.
A poet must speak the truth,
even if it means ending like García Lorca,
who was assassinated by Fascists.

A poet must speak the truth
Like Socrates, Neruda or Garcia Lorca
even as the firing squad loads its rifles.

D Hideo Maruyama

Cobalt Poets Series # 630 ~ September 3, 2024

D Hideo Maruyama obtained his MFA in Creative Writing from Long Beach State under the guidance of Gerry Locklin and Charles Webb. He was a part of Aisarema, the nonprofit wing of the shuttered Amerasia Bookstore during 90s to early 2000s. It produced the Asian Pacific American Arts journal called dIS*orient Journalzine, and he was an editor. He was included in the anthology *Voices of Leimert Park Redux*, and he has completed a collection including a closet screenplay (screenplay meant to be read) and other poems through the Community Literature Initiative in 2024. He was included in the anthology, Long Beach Spits Fire, under his Instagram name, Roninpoet. He has written several plays, and he is working on a project to photograph the LA/OC poetry scene.

Photo by Robert Macaisa
Harriet Tubman Press