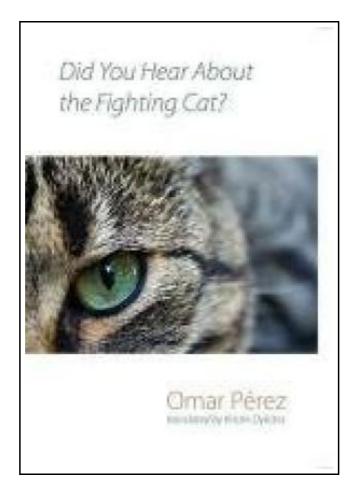
Did You Hear About the Fighting Cat?



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Reviews

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DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE FIGHTING CAT?



Shearsman Books, United Kingdom, 2010. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Bilingual. 216 x 137 mm. Language: English. Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. This book takes up the experiment of connecting Buddhist practices to an American landscape. In a 2008 interview Perez states, If Buddhism is to have a role in Cuban life it must be in harmony with the basic ethical and natural values of this land; it must give, so to say, its blood and marrow to the soil. Perez seems to have thrown even revolutionary readers for a loop by pursuing that harmony, synthesizing island poetics with Zen Buddhism. What, asked his fellow writers, does Zen have to do with Cuba and its cultural traditions? The question of Zen s potential relation to Cuban culture is at once raised for debate and answered (albeit indirectly) within these poems. One of the threads running through the pages is music, ranging from minimalist intonations to the high energies of the urban guaguanco, and beyond Havana's city lines to symbolic sources such as the Cuban national anthem. As the last example hints, another thread in the book takes up the experience of patria (homeland). The Buddhist quest for enlightenment intersects with evocations of Havana in the late 1990s, yielding an other zone from which the nation and its call are never quite absent. Like the Zen dojo in the center of a lively city, the poetry becomes a place to sound the many layers of Havana's vivid surrounds.

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