



FOUR WAY BOOKS @ 20 FALL 2013
SPRING 2014

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CONTENTS

Welcome

Fall 2013

Spring 2014

Recently Published

On the Horizon

Four Ways to Submit to Us

Four Ways to Order Our Books

Supporting Four Way Books

WELCOME

Fall 2013

Welcome to the Fall 2013-Spring 2014 Four Way Books Catalog, our latest showcase of new, forthcoming, and recent publications. As our 20th anniversary year comes to a close, we continue to build on what we gained over the past 12 months: a wider readership, donor base, and event audience.

You are receiving this catalog because you are already a supporter of Four Way Books. You understand how important the independent literary press is to our culture. I hope that you will take this opportunity to order our books from fourwaybooks.com, through online booksellers, your favorite bookstores, or our distributor, University Press of New England (UPNE) at www.upne.com.

You can also subscribe to Four Way Books by joining our Standing Order Plan. You'll automatically receive books twice a year (usually 5-7 books each fall and spring), and we can bill you or charge your account through our secure site. As a plan subscriber, you'll receive 32 percent discount. Just email me at editors@fourwaybooks.com to sign up for the Standing Order. I'll get back to you right away.

Thank you for following the good work we do.

Happy reading,

Martha Rhodes

Director, Four Way Books

Fall 2013 FICTION *"Such a delicate creature, a marriage."*

MAKE

ME DO

THINGS

VICTORIA REDEL

STORIES

MAKE ME DO THINGS

Victoria Redel

Fiction | ISBN 978-1-935536-37-6 | 236 pages | \$17.95

Photo: © 2011 Marion Ettliger



Victoria Redel is the author of four books of fiction and three books of poetry. She teaches at Sarah Lawrence College.

“Wise, sly, sexy, always surprising, Victoria Redel’s wonderful stories are a joy. This, *this* is life!”

—Claire Messud

“The stories in *Make Me Do Things* zing along with great fluency and wit, unexpected time leaps, and oblique understatement, generating relentless surprise. The characters are often parents or lovers with young children, mostly hip, sometimes oblivious, who think in the argot of right now—baffled fathers, women with baby fever, or a catastrophic lover, or perverse with child love. The children struggle with the mystery, sometimes the savagery, of the adult world, and everybody takes lessons in fear. Victoria Redel is a wonderfully talented writer whose work has the fascination of what is original.”

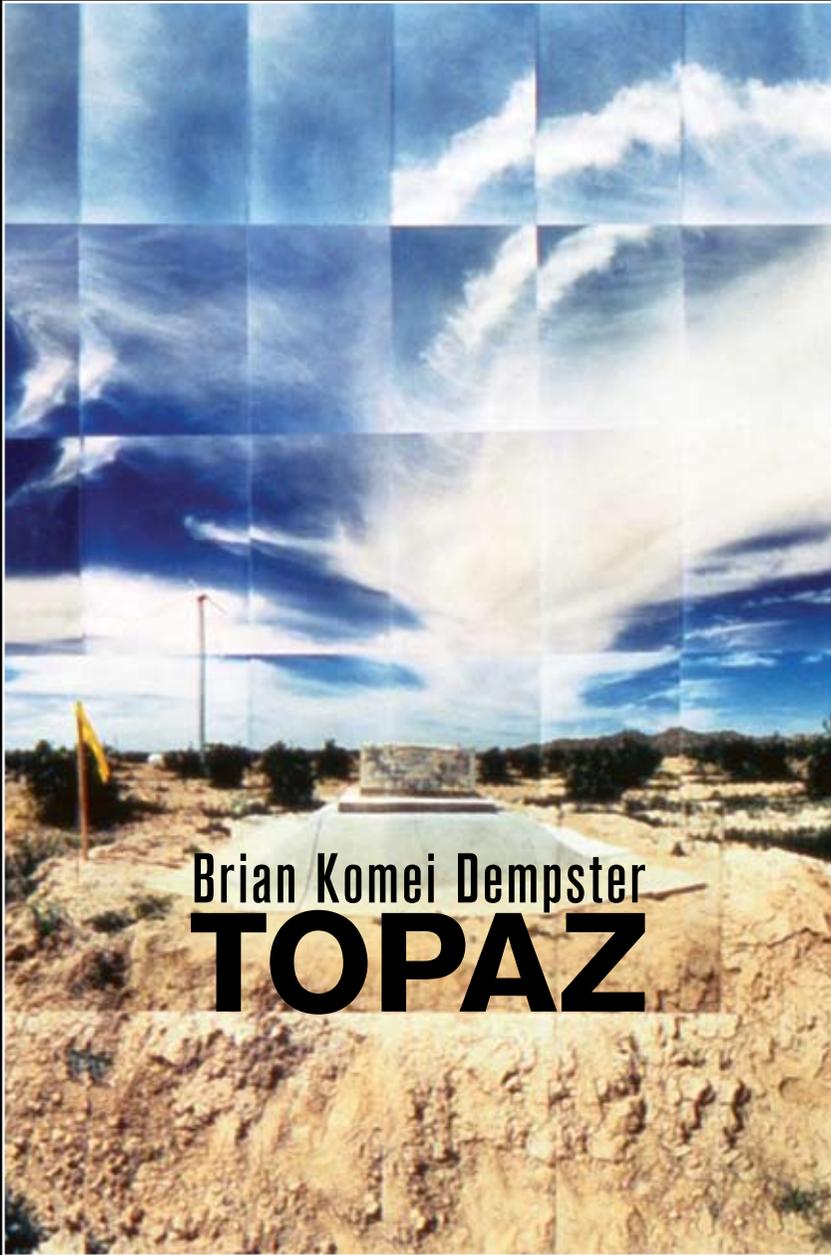
—William Kennedy

Recently Published:

WOMAN WITHOUT UMBRELLA
POEMS



Fall 2013 POETRY *"I am the prism / refracting / your prison."*



Brian Komei Dempster
TOPAZ

TOPAZ

Brian Komei Dempster

Poetry | ISBN: 978-1-935536-33-8 | 110 pages | \$15.95

Photo: Grace Chow

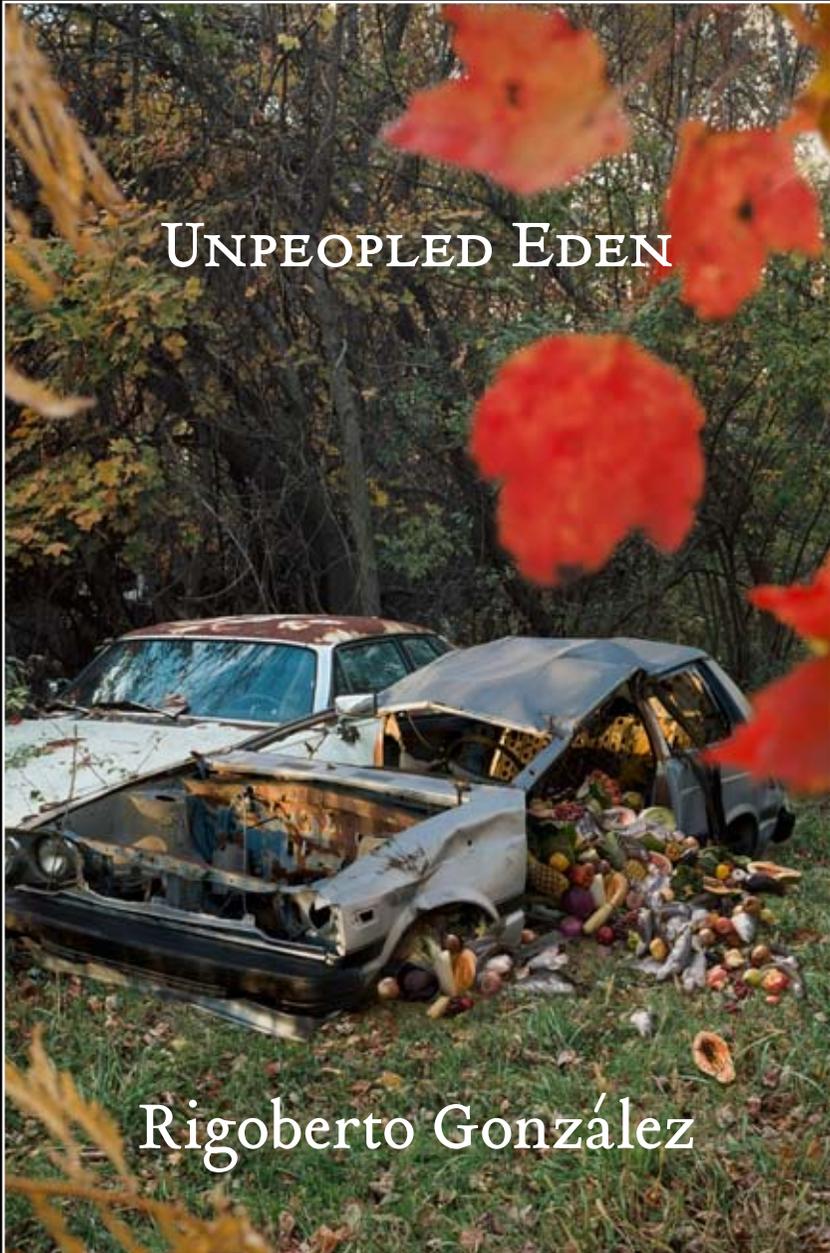


Brian Komei Dempster is editor of both *From Our Side of the Fence: Growing Up in America's Concentration Camps* (Kearny Street Workshop, 2001), which received a 2007 Nisei Voices Award from the National Japanese American Historical Society, and *Making Home from War: Stories of Japanese American Exile and Resettlement* (Heyday, 2011). He is a professor of rhetoric and language and a faculty member in Asian Pacific American Studies at the University of San Francisco. *Topaz* is his debut book of poetry.

“In Brian Komei Dempster’s debut volume *Topaz*, named after the Japanese American internment camp where his maternal family was unjustly incarcerated during WW II, there are three overlapping worlds enfolded like petals of a varicolored blossom. There is the tragic world of this Japanese American past (shared by descendants of the 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry who suffered the internment) and the withering, even disintegrating effects of these wartime events on the author’s family. There is the familial world of suffering, endurance, duty, and dignity despite this history. And, finally, there is the poet’s own world as a descendant of family and history, his entire lifetime wrapped in the gauzes, shrouds, and splendid petals of the past. For Dempster’s poems refuse to treat these legacies singly, in isolation from the others, but interleave them one over another like thin, colored papers compressed into a tight bud that, when dropped into the bowl of his liquid imagination, open and swell to reveal heartache, tragedy, erotic love, sacrifice, and filial devotion unfolding in the multi-faceted and colorful leaves of this fine book. He writes from a sere piety, from eros burgeoning even under the shadow of a sorrowful history, from love of a wife and son, from his life as a caretaker in the temple of his heroic maternal grandfather, a Buddhist priest. In a voice thickened with stoical regret, from a body charged with sexuality and grief, Brian Komei Dempster writes a poetry like no other’s.”

—Garrett Hongo

Fall 2013 POETRY *“What strange flowers grow / in the shadow.”*

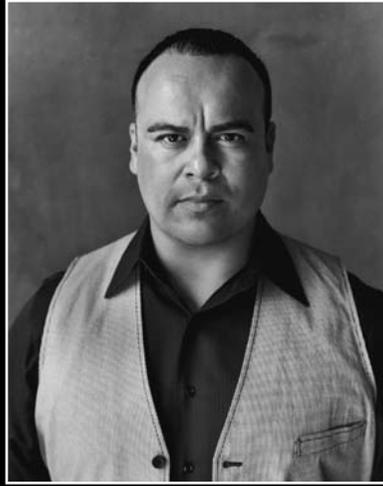


UNPEOPLED EDEN

Rigoberto González

Poetry | ISBN 978-1-935536-36-9 | 84 pages | \$15.95

Photo: © 2009 Marion Ettlinger

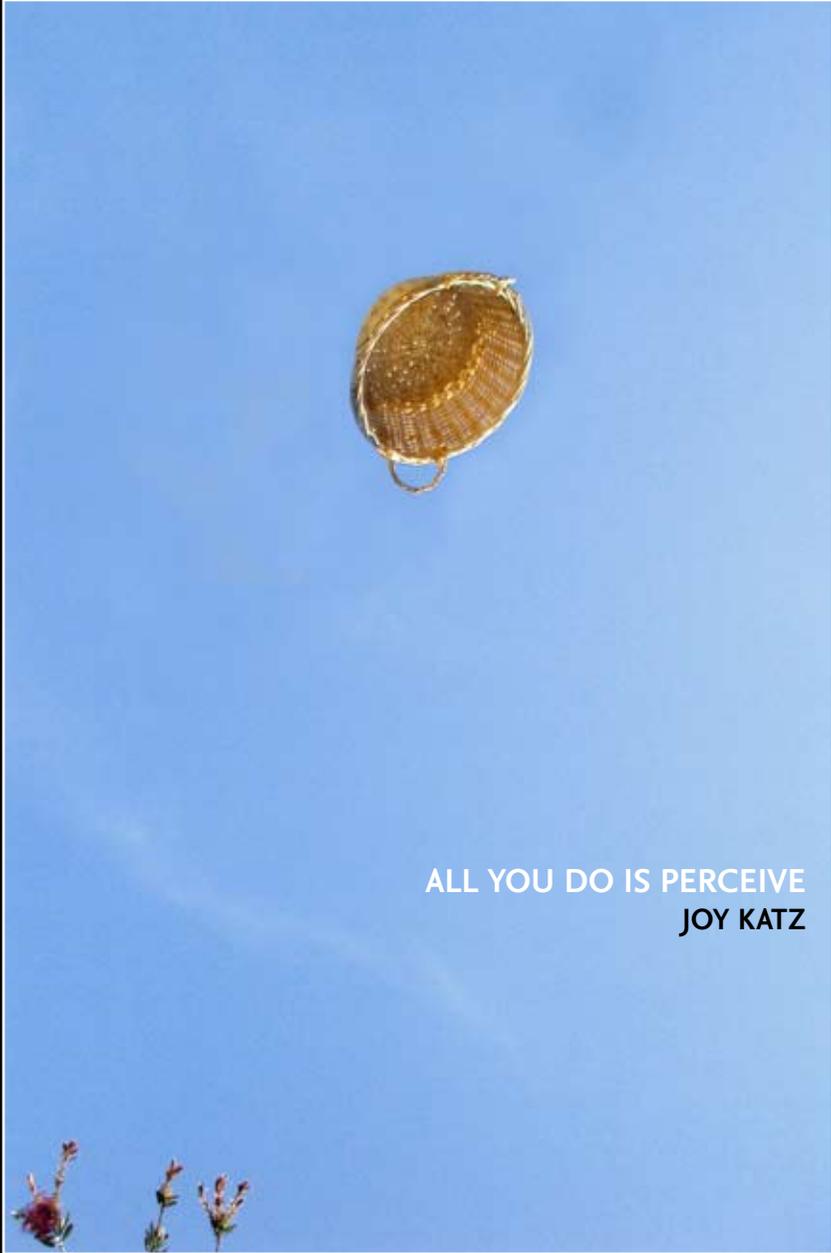


Rigoberto González is the author of thirteen books of poetry and prose. He is the recipient of Guggenheim and NEA fellowships, winner of the American Book Award, The Poetry Center Book Award, The Shelley Memorial Award of The Poetry Society of America, a grant from the New York Foundation for the Arts, and the Barnes & Noble Writers for Writers Award. He is contributing editor for *Poets & Writers Magazine*, on the executive board of directors of the National Book Critics Circle, and is associate professor of English at Rutgers-Newark, the State University of New Jersey.

“In *Unpeopled Eden*, Rigoberto González traces the bordercrosser warriors who float underground in the realm of Mictlán, the northern Aztec exile-space of the dead. Yet this is not cultural archeology or language experiment. Here we enter under the skin and inside the bone of the death village. We fall into the gnashing river where no one really dies yet is ripped out of self and stuffed into a shell of half-being: the fantastic abandonments, the strange trinities of father, mother and son, all in a nocturnal neo-Juan Rulfo plaza of ‘concussion light.’ I marvel at Rigoberto’s groundbreaking new poetics—a rare, raw, lyrical, surreal, fearless, piercing tour de force.”

—Juan Felipe Herrera

Fall 2013 POETRY *"His song is the door back to the room //
I am composed of the notes."*



ALL YOU DO IS PERCEIVE
JOY KATZ

ALL YOU DO IS PERCEIVE
Joy Katz

Poetry | ISBN: 978-1-935536-35-2 | 84 pages | \$15.95

Photo: © 2012 Star Black

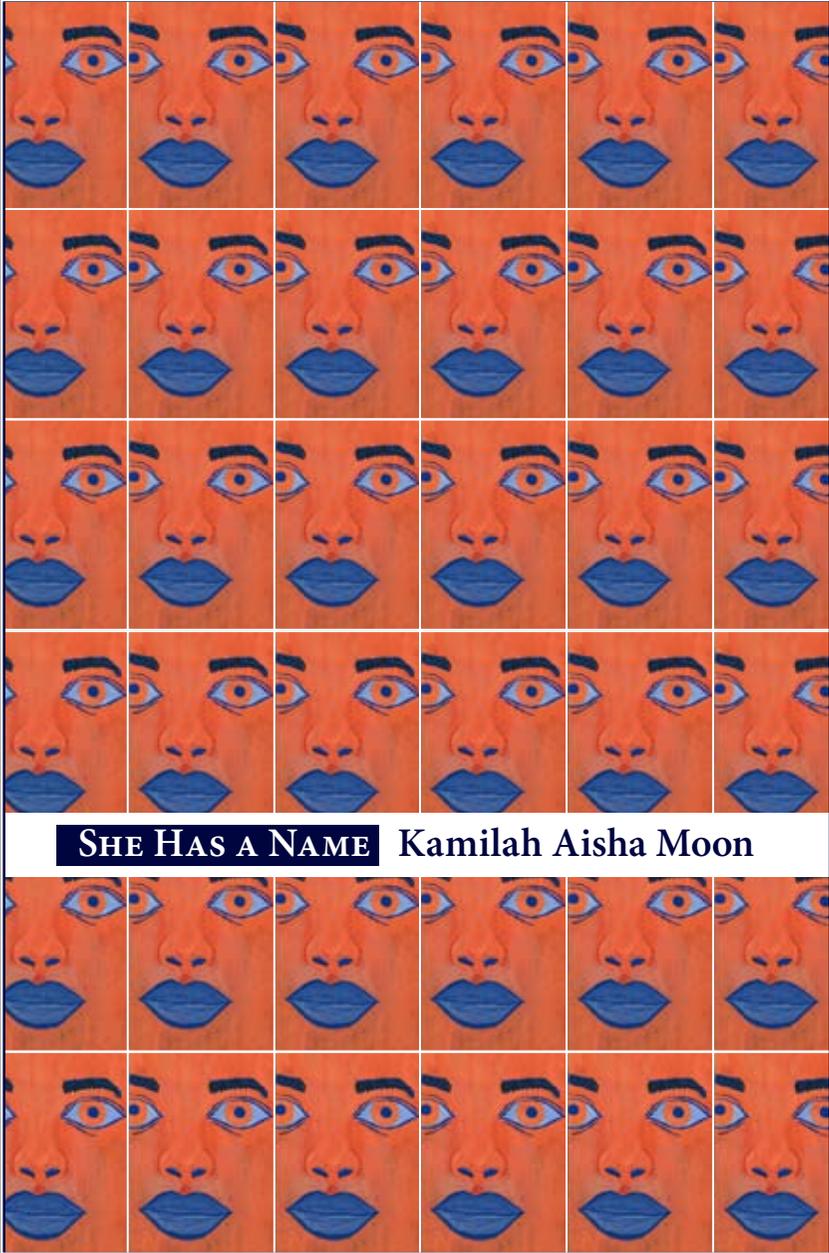


Joy Katz is the author of two previous poetry collections. A former Wallace Stegner and National Endowment for the Arts fellow, she lives in Pittsburgh, where she teaches in the graduate writing program at Chatham University. More information can be found at www.joykatz.com.

“Joy Katz is a receiver tuned to its highest possible sensitivity. Over and over, she brings in the faintest and most intimate signals—the ‘oiled sound of a dog’s dream,’ the ‘hurt growl’ of tape stripped from the roll, her baby’s ‘pah of little flame.’ ‘I will bind myself to the thinnest sounds,’ she says, ‘the feather coming out of the pillow,’ and with a hearing so acute that it is a kind of mind-reading, she risks being swept away by talkers who just won’t stop, ‘laughter like breaking plates’ and the ‘sky . . . getting louder.’ Katz is an empath with no defenses, as in the brilliant parable of obsession where she finds us a seat next to her, helpfully inquiring ‘Can you see out of my eyeholes? Are you comfortable?’ In Eliot’s words, she’s a ‘soul stretched tight across the skies,’ and in her own, tremulous and sharp and pointing where we might not have seen, ‘a needle afloat on plain water.’ There are all kinds of reasons for reading these poems—their deftness of movement, a whimsy that deepens into something like myth—but I am most grateful for the intensity and sheer intelligence of their feelings.”

—James Richardson

Fall 2013 POETRY *“Gorgeous wind / in your sails. But I need you / to carry her . . .”*



SHE HAS A NAME

Kamilah Aisha Moon

Poetry | ISBN: 978-1-935536-34-5 | 84 pages | \$15.95

Photo: Rachel Eliza Griffiths

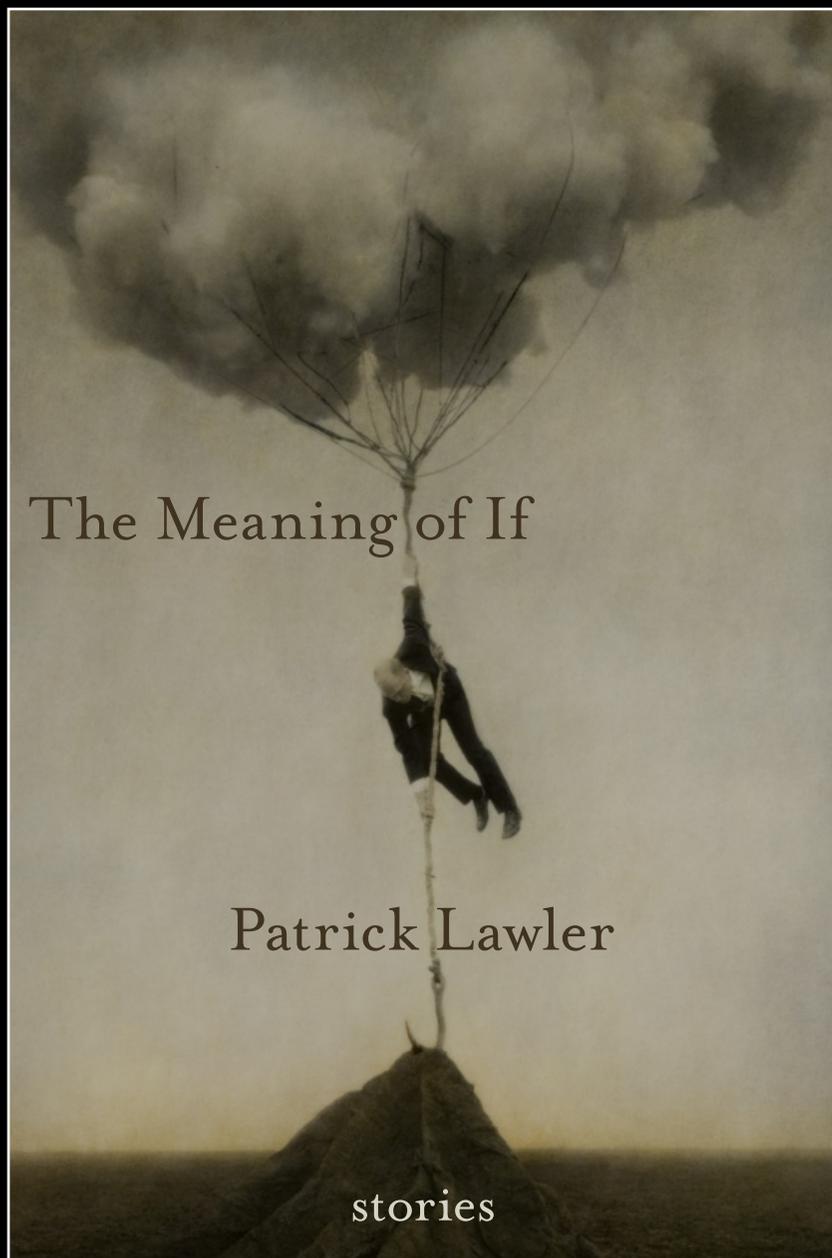


Kamilah Aisha Moon’s work has been featured in several journals and anthologies, including *Harvard Review*, *jubilat*, *Sou’wester*, *Oxford American*, *Lumina*, and *Villanelles*. She has taught English and Creative Writing at Medgar Evers College, Drew University, and Adelphi University. She has led workshops for various arts-in-education organizations in settings as diverse as libraries and prisons. A native of Nashville, TN, Moon received her MFA in Creative Writing from Sarah Lawrence College.

“A fierce love undergirds the poems in Kamilah Aisha Moon’s moving debut collection *She Has a Name*. In a taut collage of multiple viewpoints from various family members—parents, first-born, middle, and youngest daughter—to a special education teacher, Moon weaves the difficult story of people dealing with a young woman’s autism, her struggles and desires. What emerges is an autobiography—the heart in conflict with itself—a personal narrative of grief and guilt and longing interwoven with the larger family narrative against the backdrop of shared hardship. *She Has a Name* is resonant in its grappling, wise in its recognition that what threatens to render them each undone is also inextricably part of what binds them to one another.”

—Natasha Trethewey

SPRING 2014 FICTION *"My father was a virtuoso
of vanishing."*



THE MEANING OF IF

Patrick Lawler

Fiction | ISBN: 978-1-935536-45-1 | \$17.95

Photo: Molly Anne Photography



Patrick Lawler lives in Syracuse, NY. He has five collections of poetry published: *A Drowning Man is Never Tall Enough*, *reading a burning book*, *Feeding the Fear of the Earth*, *Trade World Center*, and *Underground (Notes Toward an Autobiography)*—combining an interview with poetry and memoir. His novel *Rescuers of Skydivers Search Among the Clouds* is the winner of the Ronald Sukenick American Book Review Innovative Fiction Prize—Fiction Collective 2. He is the recipient of numerous awards and fellowships including a National Endowment for the Arts, two New York State Foundation for the Arts grants, and a Saltonstall Artist’s grant. He teaches at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, and is Writer in Residence at LeMoyne College.

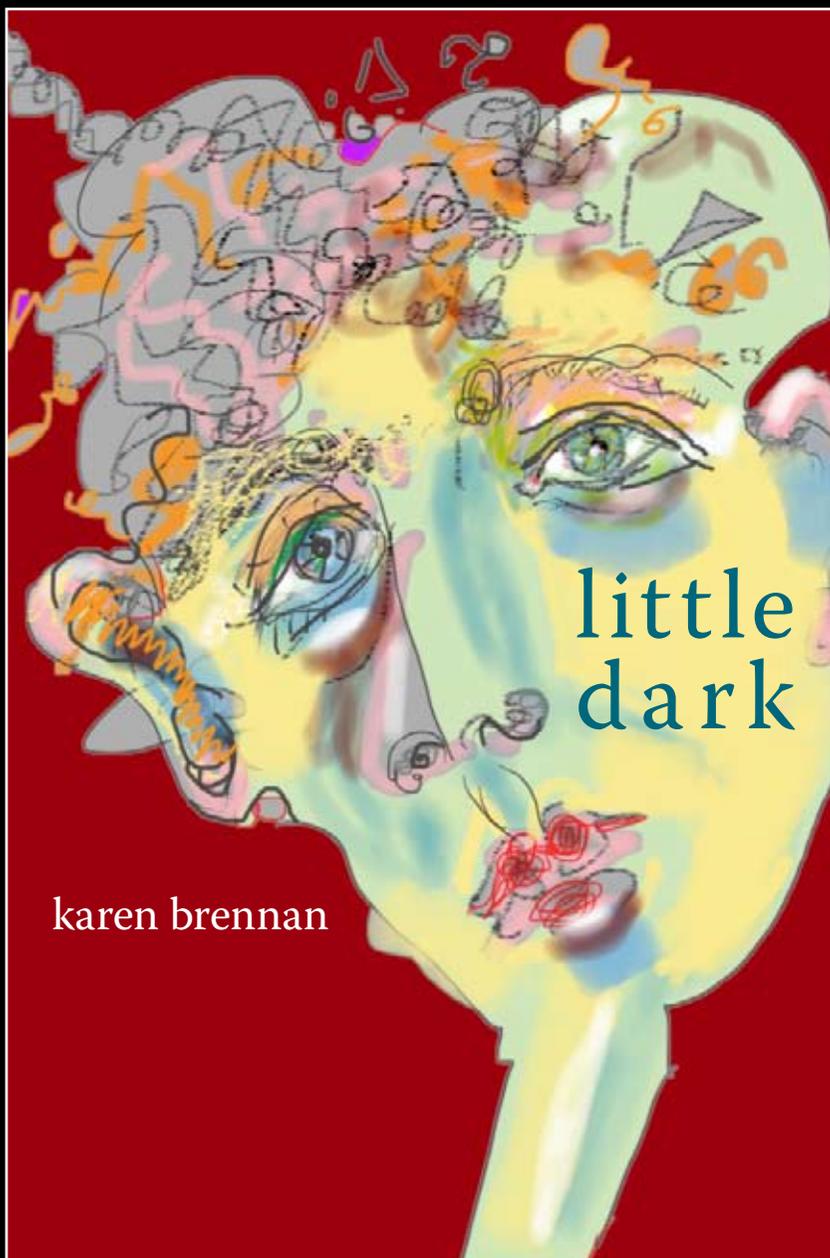
“Patrick Lawler’s great gift as a storyteller is his utterly convincing vision of the absurd. With magician’s glee, these stories expose the vanities of small town America and the pathos of family life. *The Meaning of If* is a wild carnival ride; look, listen, and prepare to be exhilarated.”

—Megan Staffel

“Patrick Lawler is a word magician—he waves a wand and the ordinary glows and vibrates. Up his sleeve you’ll find Borges and Kafka. From his top hat he pulls out Nabokov and Marquez. But the Lawler show is completely his own: prepare to be dazzled as this master storyteller conjures up pain, joy, awe, and yearning so intensely, they feel like new experiences. With their unique poetic inventiveness, the stories of Patrick Lawler’s *The Meaning of If* announce a new force in American short fiction.

—David Lloyd

SPRING 2014 POETRY *"Everything returns to the sleep
of itself"*



little
dark

karen brennan

little dark
Karen Brennan

Poetry | ISBN: 978-1-935536-42-0 | \$15.95

Photo: Stephen Romaniello



Karen Brennan is the author of five books in various genres. Her work has been included in anthologies from Norton, Penguin, Graywolf, Longman, Michigan, Spuyten Duyvill, and Georgia, among others. She is Professor Emerita from the University of Utah and teaches at the Warren Wilson College MFA Program for Writers. She lives in Tucson.

“There is a dream, a Traum, of tenderness in little dark, and in the dream, fast birds race against death. Loosed from memory, the truth of love hastens towards heaven on earth. In the imaged measure of these poems, Karen Brennan indites a new remonstrance. Her protest is every petal of a rose.”

—Donald Revell

“Brennan’s is a poetics that creates form as it rises and enters air. But the voice of the book also sinks and enters earth. Here the elements of a life are animated under hypnosis and talking. The poems, zen-like. Like Gaudi’s open cathedral in Barcelona, they do not have ceilings or limits. They have an articulated self (a little dark) navigating a wildly populated and open sky.”

—Barbara Cully

SPRING 2014 POETRY

*"Why speak serious now, /
we never liked you serious."*



CLEAN

David J. Daniels

Poetry | ISBN: 978-1-935536-41-3 | \$15.95

Winner of the Four Way Books Into Prize in Poetry

Photo: John Tiedemann



David J. Daniels is the author of two chapbooks, *Breakfast in the Suburbs* and *Indecency*. Raised in Texas, he is a former Stadler Poetry Fellow and Work Study Scholar at Bread Loaf. His work has appeared in *Pleiades*, *Kenyon Review*, *Boston Review*, *Indiana Review*, and elsewhere.

“To reclaim brokenness as a state of necessity and grace, David J. Daniels goes in search of the missing, the disgraced, the criminal . . . lives that seem least likely to be celebrated in poetry. Daniels lifts the world onto his shoulders in his poems. *Clean* is his book of life, there is no one who is not redeemed.”

—D. A. Powell, judge, Four Way Books Intro Prize in Poetry

SPRING 2014 POETRY

*"Listen to this, the
snow falls honestly."*

A HOTEL IN BELGIUM



BRETT FLETCHER LAUER

A HOTEL IN BELGIUM

Brett Fletcher Lauer

Poetry | ISBN: 978-1-935536-39-0 | \$15.95

Photo: Gretchen Scott



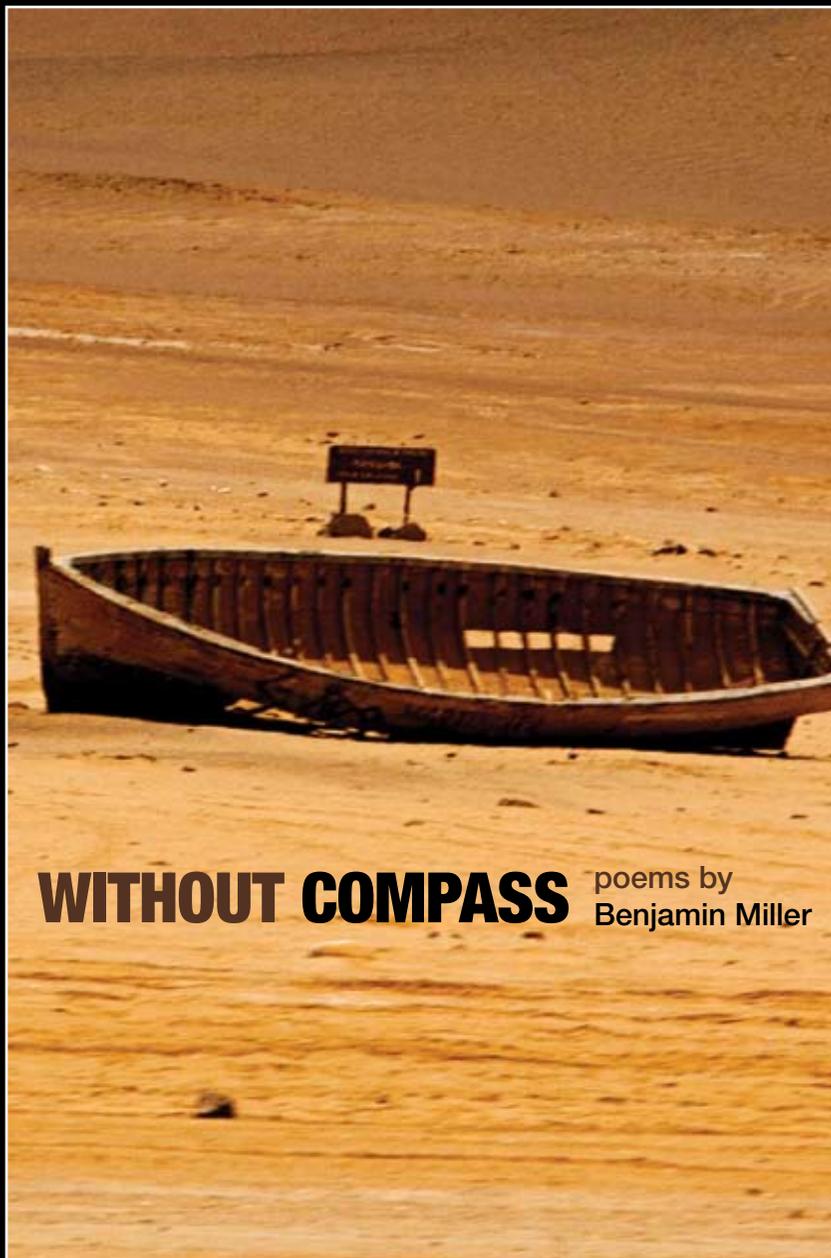
Brett Fletcher Lauer is the deputy director of the Poetry Society of America and the poetry editor at *A Public Space*. He is the co-editor of *Isn't It Romantic: 100 Love Poems by Younger American Poets* (Wave, 2004) and his poems have appeared in *American Poetry Review*, *Boston Review*, *Fence*, *Harper's*, *Tin House*, and elsewhere.

“Brett Fletcher Lauer’s *A Hotel in Belgium* is about estrangement and the distances created by our disparate experiences of the world (‘the machinery in you malfunctions in me’). In these poems, mood and moons are viewed as if via telescope and operate according to stage directions (‘a thousand gray stars prearranged / to shine so-so over the wonders of modern cities’). But just when you become accustomed to the sheen of these poems’ surfaces, sinkholes of precisely rendered beauty and vulnerability appear. The result is surprising and unsettling in the best way.”

—Matthea Harvey

SPRING 2014 POETRY

*“outside this tent the desert,
and outside the desert, sand.”*



WITHOUT COMPASS poems by Benjamin Miller

WITHOUT COMPASS

Benjamin Miller

Poetry | ISBN: 978-1-935536-38-3 | \$15.95

Photo: Sara Morrison



Benjamin Miller has studied at Harvard, Columbia, and the CUNY Graduate Center, and has taught writing at Columbia and Hunter College. His poems have appeared in *RHINO*, *Pleiades*, *The Greensboro Review*, and elsewhere; *Without Compass* is his first book. For more about Ben, visit majoringinmeta.net.

“Much like Louise Glück, Miller creates a calculus of ordinary life ‘riven by static,’ absorbed by the ‘echolalia’ of glances, interviews, communion with nature, with presence, with the self. And from this rigorous attention to dailyness, he charts—without compass, without North Star—intensities of surprise, unexpected visits, encounters, attempts at speech. These gorgeous, painful poems map the unpredictable weather of the psyche: torrential, scorching, cold, or calm. We would be lost without them.”

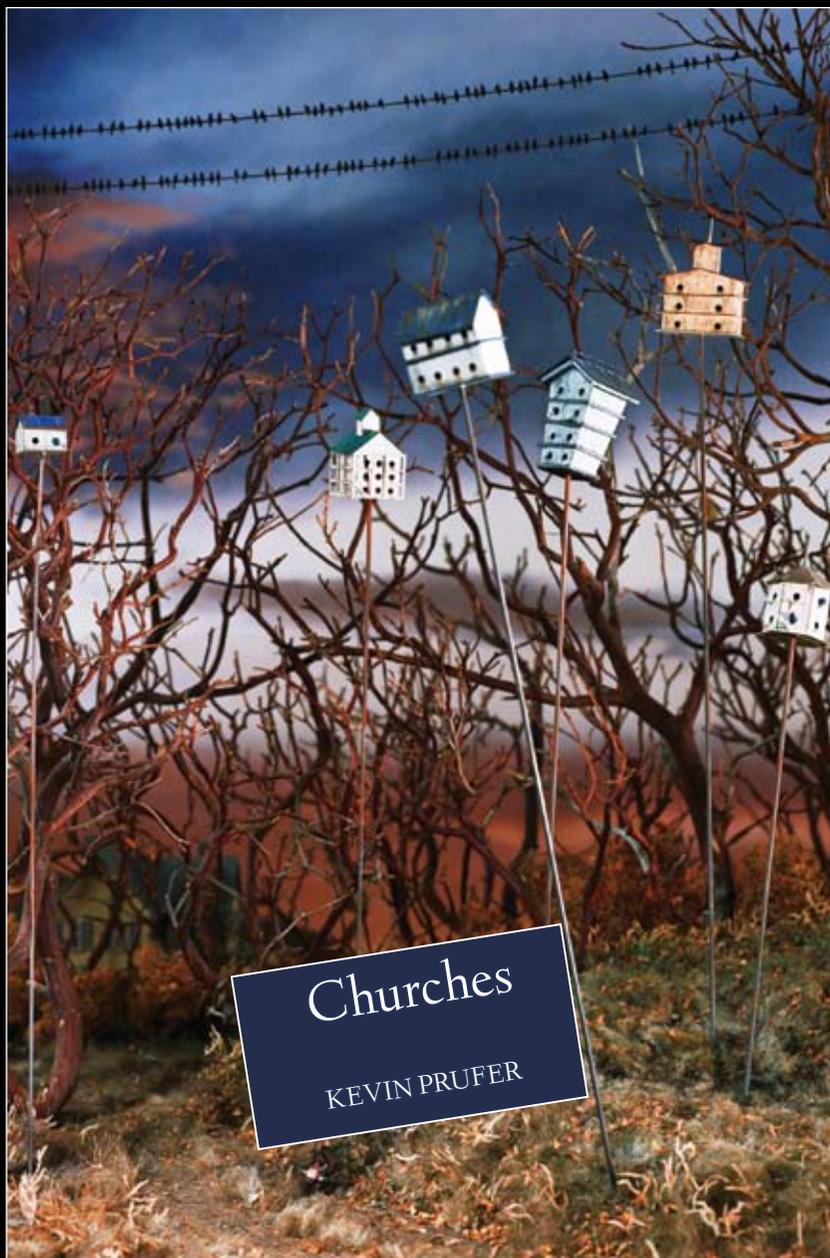
—Tom Healy

“Miller’s precise debut is a work of forceful imagination and elegant verve—a masterstroke of approach and echolocation.”

—Lytton Smith

SPRING 2014 POETRY

"In the dark water, the black hearts keep beating."



Churches

KEVIN PRUFER

CHURCHES

Kevin Prufer

Poetry | ISBN: 978-1-935536-43-7 | \$15.95

Photo: Mary Y. Hallab



Kevin Prufer is the author of five previous collections, including *In a Beautiful Country* (a finalist for the Rilke Prize and the Poets Prize) and *National Anthem* (named one of the five best books of the year by *Publishers Weekly*), both from Four Way Books. He also co-curates the *Unsung Masters Series* and has edited several anthologies, including *New European Poets* (Graywolf, 2008; w/ Wayne Miller) and *New Young American Poets* (Southern Illinois UP, 2000). The recipient of three Pushcart prizes, multiple *Best American Poetry* selections, and fellowships from the NEA and the Lannan Foundation, he teaches in the Creative Writing Program at the University of Houston.

PAST PRAISE:

“Kevin Prufer is one of the most vital poets on his generation, saying important things about our culture in fearless, eloquent ways.”

—David Walker, *Field: Contemporary Poetry & Poetics*

“Among the best poets in the USA.”

—*The Notre Dame Review*

“Kevin Prufer is one of our best poets from the younger generation who still believe in the pure power of the lyric, the rhythm, and the force of the voice.”

—*Bloomsbury Review*

“A rare poetry collection: as angry and ironic over the state of contemporary America—figured here as a great classical empire in decline—as it is funny and perversely pleasurable.”

—*Publishers Weekly*, Best Books of the Year

SPRING 2014 POETRY *"When it rings, the
phone is a violence"*

JANUARY MACHINE ROB SCHLEGEL



JANUARY MACHINE

Rob Schlegel

Poetry | ISBN: 978-1-935536-44-4 | \$15.95

Photo: Hannah Crumrine

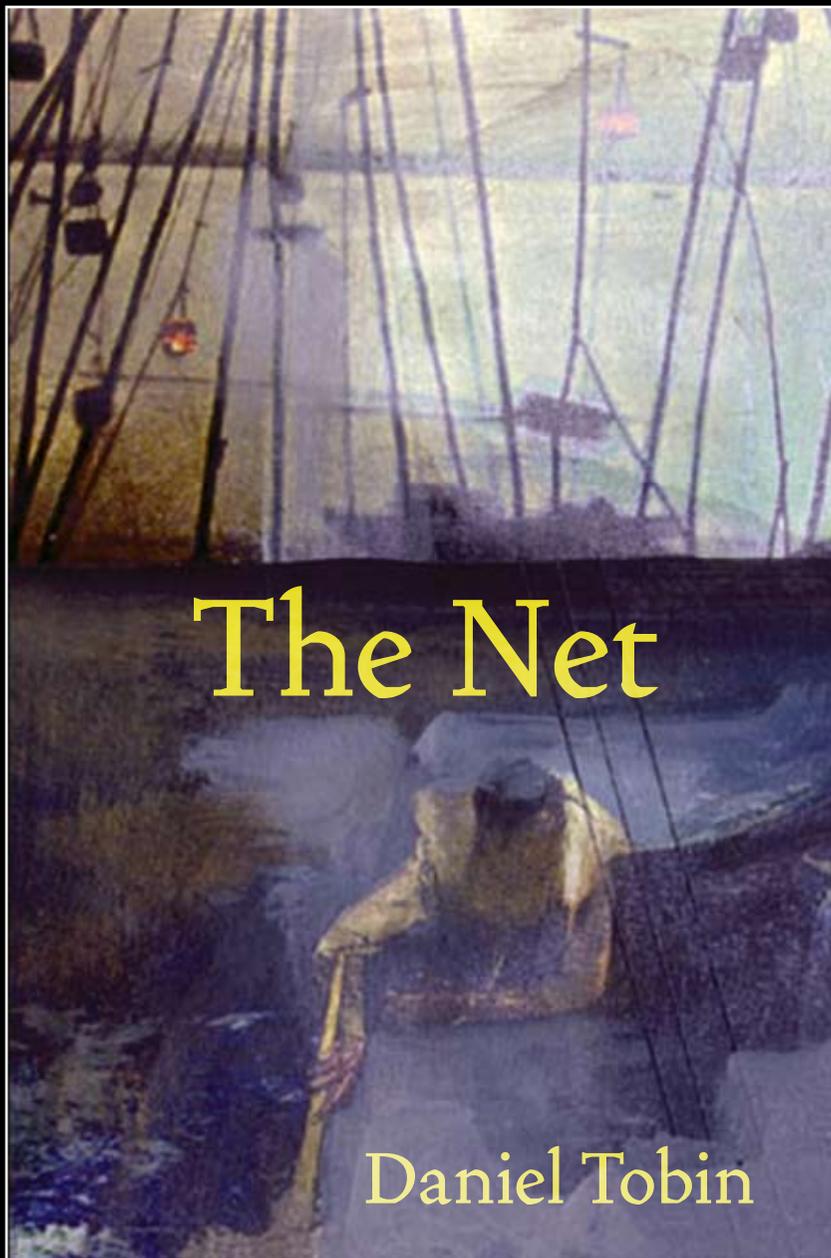


Rob Schlegel is the author of *The Lesser Fields* (Center for Literary Publishing). He serves as co-editor of *The Catenary Press*, which is dedicated to publishing long poems. His writing has appeared in *Boston Review*, *Columbia Poetry Review*, *Jacket2*, *New American Writing*, *The Volta*, and elsewhere. Born in Portland, Oregon, he has lived most recently in Washington, Iowa, and Montana.

“Rob Schlegel’s *January Machine* soberly engages and resists our era’s ecstasy of communication. The narrator in these poems speaks with a breathtaking clarity that cuts through the commerce of information that has inexorably shaped our national consciousness. Lucid, sincere, part discursive meditation and part stirring lyric, these poems search for an utterance that can be wakeful to despair and fear, an utterance that can sing through, yet simultaneously net, America’s distraction with the spectacle, and embody what Gertrude Stein calls ‘open feeling,’ a state of slowed, empathic receptivity. *January Machine* is a brilliant and moving collection.”

—Cathy Park Hong

SPRING 2014 POETRY *"... a summoning from
under..."*



THE NET

Daniel Tobin

Poetry | ISBN: 978-1-935536-40-6 | \$15.95

Photo: © 2008 Star Black



Daniel Tobin is the author of five previous books of poems, *Where the World is Made*, *Double Life*, *The Narrows*, *Second Things*, and *Belated Heavens* (winner of the Massachusetts Book Award in Poetry, 2011). His awards include the “The Discovery/The Nation Award,” The Robert Penn Warren Award, the Robert Frost Fellowship, the Katherine Bakelless Nason Prize, and creative writing fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation.

“These are very beautiful poems, and *The Net* is a very beautiful book—surpassingly so. Some poems are movingly personal, yet are always also about the experience we share as human beings; how we recognize ourselves in how we look at things, in what we read and have read, and in the evidence of our dismaying human lives. In that very way Tobin’s marvelous translation of Trakl’s ‘All Souls’ memorializes human experience. Tobin also displays an extraordinary capacity for using his resources as a poet through his command of diction and idiom, and through his versification—his ability to produce fluent and expressive metrical lines in sequences (often rhyming in very original, surprising ways) which construct, for each poem, an identifying and powerfully persuasive music, and in his ability to convey also in free-verse the music of impressive thought and feeling. From one poet to another, I praise and envy the mastery evident in Tobin’s collection.”

—David Ferry

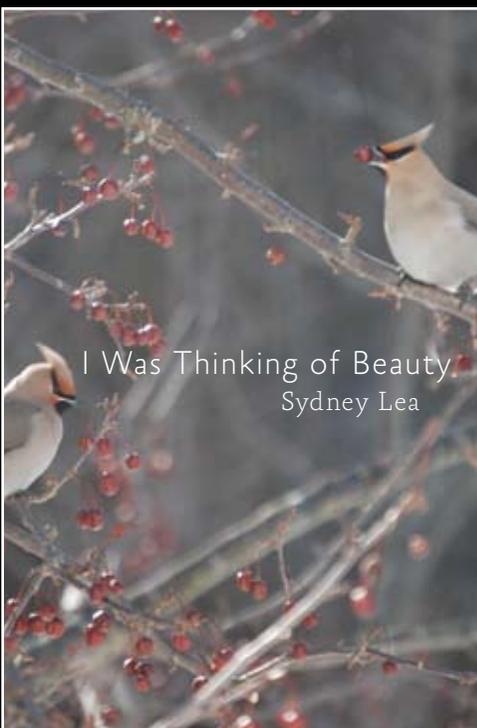
RECENTLY PUBLISHED

Begging for It



Alex Dimitrov

DEAR WEATHER GHOST Melissa Ginsburg



I Was Thinking of Beauty
Sydney Lea

HEMMING

**THE
WATER**

**YONA
HARVEY**

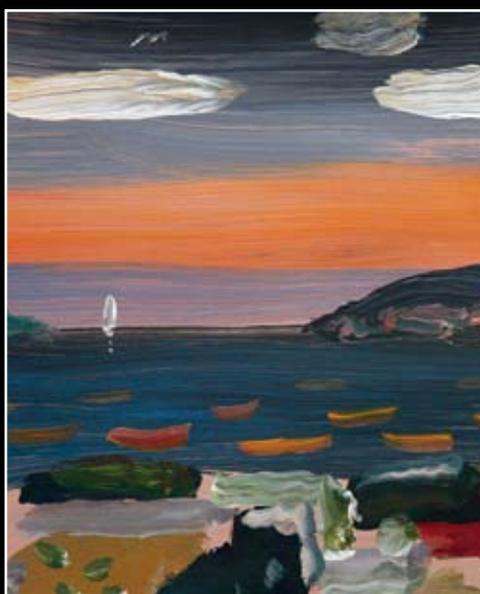
RECENTLY PUBLISHED



THE TRAPS
LOUISE MATHIAS

SMALL PORCELAIN HEAD

ALLISON BENIS WHITE



holding ground

bruce willard

ON THE HORIZON . . . Cynthia Cruz, David Dodd Lee,
Eugenia Leigh, Gregory Pardlo, and Cammy Thomas

Photo: Steven Page



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FOUR + WAYS TO SUBMIT

The Four Way Books Intro Poetry Prize

Brenda Shaughnessy, Judge
Submissions accepted
January 1 - March 31

For a book-length collection of poetry written in English, open to all poets regardless of publication history.

\$1000 plus publication and a reading in NYC.

The June Reading Period

Submissions accepted June 1 - 30

Poetry and short fiction
Open to all poets and writers writing in English, regardless of publication history. We will also consider novellas of between 80-200 pages (or thereabouts).

It's No Contest

Submissions accepted
November 15 - December 15
No reading fee.

For a book-length collection of poetry written in English by a NYC resident (5 boroughs) for a first or second collection of poems. More information will be posted on the site by the end of October.

Throughout the Year

Query before sending your work. We will, if we can, read your work at other times during the year. Please email us at editors@fourwaybooks.com to see if we can accommodate your schedule. Note: it's always best to send to us during our regular reading periods. Your work will not receive "special attention" if you submit to us outside of our normal reading periods.

Our readers rotate throughout the year so that your work can receive a fresh read in the event that you submit to us multiple times. Our readers hold an MFA, and / or work as editors. We do not employ readers who are students.

PLUS!

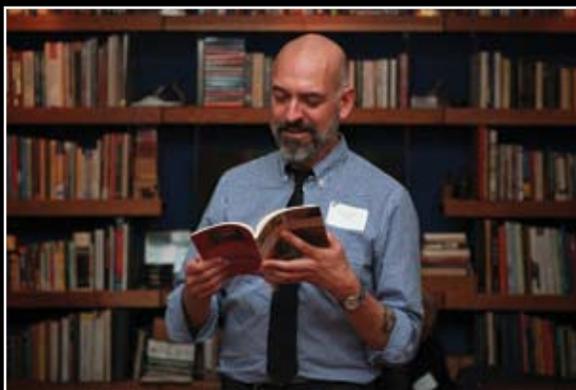
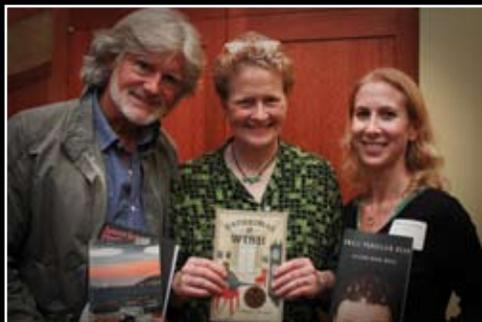
THE FOUR WAY REVIEW

An Electronic Literary Journal
fourwayreview.com



FOUR WAY BOOKS BENEFIT EVENTS:

SOHO



Photos: Lily Landes

MILLBROOK with special Guest Readers
John Sayles, Maggie Renzi, and David Strathairn



Photos: Jean Brunel

Photo: Clarissa Long



Photo: Clarissa Long



Photo: Beth Harrison

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We are grateful for the support of a Face Out grant from the Council of Literary Magazines and Presses, funded by the New York Community Trust.

We are grateful to the Jerome Foundation for a generous grant that has supported the publication of this catalog and our books, in particular books by emerging writers from New York City.

This catalog and the publication of our books are made possible by a generous grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

We are also grateful for the public funds we receive from the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency.

We wish to thank the individuals and private foundations who have supported Four Way Books.

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