



SARABANDE BOOKS 2018

poetry. short fiction. essay.

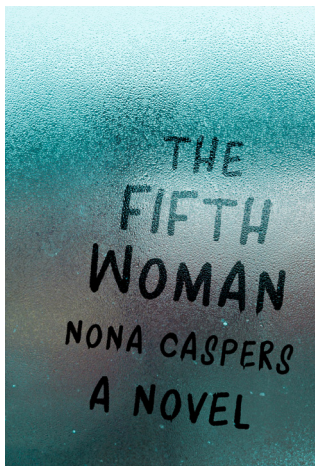
THE FIFTH WOMAN

Novel by Nona Caspers

Winner of the 2016 Mary McCarthy Prize in Short Fiction

“*The Fifth Woman* is stealthily astonishing from its first line (“An aberrant heavy cloud rests above my backyard.”) to its last (“And I am so afraid and so awake.”). Over the course of twenty-three connected short fictions, the writer marks out a trail of mourning that is both quite straightforward and miraculously layered, strange, and emotionally multifaceted. There is not a single sentence in these stories that is not as clear as water.... It is a wonderful book.”

—Stacey D’Erasmus, judge



At the center of Nona Caspers’s novel-in-stories is the death of the narrator’s partner in a bicycle accident. Each story serves as a brief vignette or magical-realist metaphor for the grieving process: the shadow of a dog appears in her apartment with no apparent source; a crack opens in the ceiling and splits her building down the middle. At times dryly comical, at others radiantly surreal, *The Fifth Woman* is a testament to the resurrecting power of memory and enduring love.

Nona Caspers is the author of *Heavier Than Air*, which was honored with the AWP Grace Paley Prize in Short Fiction and listed as a *New York Times Book Review* Editors’ Choice. Her work has been supported with a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, an Iowa Review Fiction Award, a LAMBDA nomination, and the Joseph Henry Jackson Literary Grant and Award, among other honors. She is a Professor of Creative Writing at San Francisco State University and lives in San Francisco.

AUGUST 2018. PAPERBACK, 160 PAGES, 5.5 x 8.5, \$15.95

TP: 978-1-946448-17-0 | EB: 978-1-946448-18-7

POST TRAUMATIC HOOD DISORDER

Poetry by David Tomas Martinez

“Original to the bone, deep cuts, power punches and intimate portraits—truth art, truth word, a major voice. Ever seen a patched-up Ferrari engine race down Main Street without a body? Check this out. Brave Soul.”

—Juan Felipe Herrera,
Poet Laureate of the United States

“This is a book of urgencies, and Martinez rises old-school like Icarus, intent on leaving anguish, falseness and bullshit in his wake.”

—Vievee Francis

“David Tomas Martinez offers us the America that is the music all his own. There is not a fake note in this orchestra.”

—Ilya Kaminsky



“Look at homie on the beach picking shells in dress shoes,” David Tomas Martinez writes in his raw, electrifying second collection. In *Post Traumatic Hood Disorder*, the speaker assembles a bricolage self-portrait from the fractures of the past. Sliding between scholarly diction and slangy vernacular, studded with references to Greek mythology and hip-hop, Martinez’s poems showcase a versatility of language and a wild-hearted poetic energy that is thoughtful, vulnerable, and distinctly American.

David Tomas Martinez is a CantoMundo fellow and recipient of a 2017 NEA Fellowship, a Pushcart Prize, the Verlaine Poetry Prize, and the Stanley P. Young Fellowship from Breadloaf. *Hustle* (2015) won the New England Book Festival’s Poetry Prize and the Devil’s Kitchen Reading Award. His poetry has appeared in *Tin House*, *Oxford American*, *Boston Review*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Ploughshares*, *American Poetry Review*, and *Poetry*.

MARCH 2018. PAPERBACK, 72 PAGES, 5.5 X 8.5, \$14.95

TP: 978-1-946448-09-5 | EB: 978-1-946448-10-1

BROOD

Poetry by Kimiko Hahn

Quarternote Chapbook #14

“Kimiko Hahn’s poems glow with concentrated energy.”

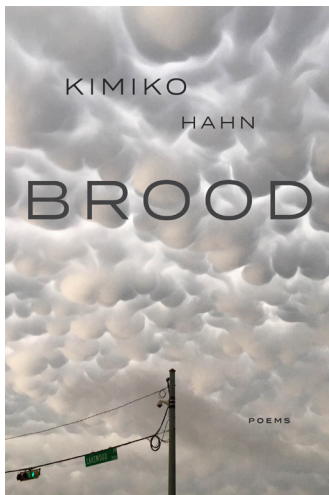
—*Boston Review*

“One of the most important poets of our time.”

—*Bomb*

“Kimiko Hahn stands as a welcome voice of experimentation and passion.”

—*Bloomsbury Review*



In *Brood*, Kimiko Hahn trains her eye on the commonplace—clothespins, bees, papaya, perfume, poached eggs, a sponge, fire, sand dollars—and reveals their very essence in concise, evocative language. Underlying these little gems is a sense of loss, a mother’s death, or a longing for childhood. “Brood” connotes the bundling of family or beasts, but also dark thinking, and both are at play here where the less said, the better.

Kimiko Hahn is the author of ten books of poetry, including most recently, *Brain Fever* (Norton, 2014). She has received numerous honors, including the PSA’s Shelley Memorial Prize, the PEN/Voelcker Award, and fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, Guggenheim Foundation, and New York Foundation for the Arts. She is a distinguished professor in creative writing at Queens College (CUNY) and lives in Forest Hills, New York.

JULY 2018. PAPERBACK, 32 PAGES, 9 X 6, \$10.00

TP: 978-1-946448-15-6 | EB: 978-1-946448-16-3

BEYOND MEASURE

Essays by Rachel Z. Arndt

“Rachel Z. Arndt’s collection demonstrates beautifully the marvelous ability of the personal essay to carve out of the ordinary events of everyday life a piece of shaped experience.”

—Vivian Gornick

“Of all the weights and measures used to gauge the ‘human metronome’ of the body in time . . . Arndt’s elegant and patient syntax, calibrated to keep pace with her attentive interiority, is the most sensitive instrument of all.”

—Robyn Schiff

“In the grip of Rachel Z. Arndt’s spellbindingly obsessive mind, nearly everything shines with measurability and poetry and disturbing familiarity.”

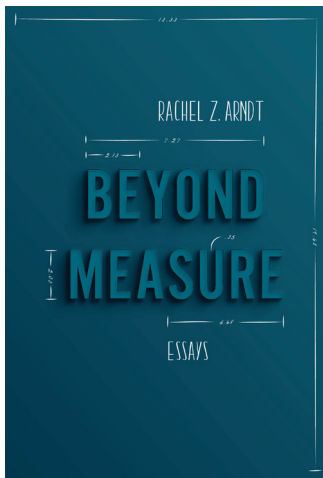
—John D’Agata

With mordant humor and penetrating intellect, Rachel Z. Arndt casts her gaze beyond event-driven narratives to the machinery underlying them: judo competitions measured in weigh-ins and wait times; the significance of the elliptical’s stationary churn; the standardized height of kitchen countertops; the rote scripts of dating apps; the stupefying sameness of the daily commute. “How much can data tell us?” Arndt asks, challenging us to consider the simultaneous comfort and absurdity of our exhaustively quantified—yet never entirely quantifiable—lives.

Rachel Z. Arndt’s writing has appeared in *Popular Mechanics*, *Quartz*, *The Believer*, and elsewhere. She received MFAs in nonfiction and poetry from the University of Iowa, where she was an Iowa Arts Fellow and nonfiction editor of *The Iowa Review*. She lives in Chicago and works as a reporter at *Modern Healthcare*.

APRIL 2018. PAPERBACK, 202 PAGES, 7.75 x 5.25, \$15.95

TP: 978-1-946448-13-2 | EB: 978-1-946448-14-9



FLUDDE

Poetry by Peter Mishler

Winner of the 2016
Kathryn A. Morton Prize in Poetry

“Occasionally, poetry provides us with raw proof of what it is to be alive, perceptions that never stray far from sensations, an illumination of sparks as opposed to, or at least in addition to, the steady artificial light of reason. The poems in *Fludde* are tributes to the imagination’s ability to see through the tissues of the ordinary to something far more disruptive and timeless.”

—Dean Young, judge

“There’s a powerful moral imagination at work in *Fludde*, and its poems are darkly and passionately self-knowing about the consequences of how the childhood self is, as it grows, incorporated into the world around it.”

—David Ferry

Selected by Dean Young as winner of the Kathryn A. Morton Prize in Poetry, *Fludde* draws on Blake’s *Songs of Innocence and of Experience* to critique and dismantle contemporary American values and conditioning. Mishler’s poems are a series of strange, atmospheric, surrealist dioramas; the language is both beautiful and skillful, a conflation of fever dream and real, live earth.

Peter Mishler presently curates a contemporary poetry interview series for *Literary Hub*. He earned a BFA in literature from Emerson College and an MS in English Education and an MFA in creative writing from Syracuse University. His work has been featured at *Conjunctions*, *The Literary Review*, *Public Pool*, and *Poetry Daily*, and was selected for the *Best New Poets* series. He lives in Kansas City.



MAY 2018. PAPERBACK, 60 PAGES, 5.25 x 7.75, \$14.95

TP: 978-1-946448-19-4 | EB: 978-1-946448-20-0

Quarternote Chapbook #15

“Sandra Cisneros knows both that the heart can be broken and that it can rise and soar like a bird. Whatever story she chooses to tell, we should be listening for a long time to come.”

—*The Washington Post Book World*

“Sandra Cisneros makes me so happy that I am a reader, so joyful that she is a writer, and even more exhilarated that she is part of our world.”

—*Edwidge Danticat*

Sandra Cisneros has a fondness for animals and this little gem of a story makes that abundantly clear. “La casa azul,” the cobalt blue residence of Mister and Missus Rivera, overflows with hairless dogs, monkeys, a fawn, a “passionate” Guacamaya macaw, tarantulas, an iguana, and rescues that resemble “ancient Olmec pottery.” Missus loves the rescues most “because their eyes were filled with grief.”



Sandra Cisneros is a poet, short story writer, novelist, and essayist, whose work explores the lives of the working-class. Her numerous awards include NEA fellowships in both poetry and fiction, the Texas Medal of the Arts, a MacArthur Fellowship, several honorary doctorates and book awards nationally and internationally, and most recently Chicago’s Fifth Star Award, the PEN Center USA Literary Award, and the National Medal of the Arts, awarded to her by President Obama in 2016. *The House on Mango Street* has sold over five million copies, been translated into over twenty languages, and is required reading in elementary, high school, and universities across the nation. Founder of awards and foundations that serve writers and a dual citizen of the United States and Mexico, Sandra Cisneros earns her living by her pen.

OCTOBER 2018. PAPERBACK, TK PAGES, 6 x 9, \$10.00

TP: 978-1-946448-21-7 | EB: 978-1-946448-25-5

THE LAKE ON FIRE

Novel by Rosellen Brown

“Like Jane Austen, [Brown] digs deeper and deeper into the territory she has staked out, always coming up with brilliant new jewels.”

—Laurie Muchnick, *Newsday*

On *Before and After*:

“Powerful. . . . This novel, for all its philosophical provocation and literary merit, is also an unabashed, read-until-dawn page-turner.”

—*New York Times Book Review*

“Rosellen Brown’s characters move me to tears.”

—Annie Dillard



Rosellen Brown’s latest novel is an epic narrative set in the late 19th century that begins on a failing farm in Wisconsin and culminates at the 1893 World’s Columbian Exposition in Chicago. With Lake Michigan as backdrop, Chayah and her brother Asher scrape together a living—she works in a cigar factory, he steals books and jewelry while roaming the city—until their fortunes finally turn. A gritty, absorbing, and deeply felt novel.

Rosellen Brown is the author of the novels *Half a Heart*, *Tender Mercies*, *Before and After*, *Civil Wars*, and seven other books. Her stories have appeared frequently in *O. Henry Prize Stories*, *Best American Short Stories*, and *Best Short Stories of the Century*. She now teaches in the MFA in Writing Program at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and lives in Mr. Obama’s neighborhood, overlooking Lake Michigan.

NOVEMBER 2018. PAPERBACK, TK PAGES, 6 x 9, TBD

TP: 978-1-946448-23-1 | EB: 978-1-946448-24-8

Selected Backlist
WITCH WIFE
Poetry by Kiki Petrosino

Linda Bruckheimer Series in
Kentucky Literature 2016

“Her words kindle. Her poems are pure fire.
Witch Wife might be her finest burn yet.”

—Amber Tamblyn

“When I read this book on the subway, the investment banker sitting next to me was reading over my shoulder. He could tell I was warming myself by some kind of fire. And I was. It was glorious.”

—Leslie Jamison

“Petrosino helps us see not just what we want, but what it means to want so many things at once. This is a necessary book in a time of great uncertainty. It is a treasure.”

—Gabrielle Calvocoressi



The poems of *Witch Wife* are spells—to exorcise memory, to mourn the beloved dead, to find the child hidden in the past or future, and to find comfort in the body we are given. The result is a new strain of myth bursting with wit, startling diction, and an audacious push against the limits of syntax. *Witch Wife* confirms and extends the accomplishment of the poet’s first two books. Its gifted, unteachable play with language is both discovery and a reader’s superb pleasure.

Kiki Petrosino is the author of three books of poetry: *Witch Wife* (2017), *Hymn for the Black Terrific* (2013), and *Fort Red Border* (2009), all from Sarabande. Her poems and essays have appeared in *Best American Poetry*, *The New York Times*, *FENCE*, *Tin House*, and *Ploughshares*. She is founder and co-editor of *Transom*, an independent online poetry journal. She directs the creative writing program at the University of Louisville.

DECEMBER 2017. PAPER OVER BOARD, 60 PAGES, 5.5 x 8, \$16.95

TP: 978-1-946448-03-3 | EB: 978-1-946448-04-0

Selected Backlist
CATAPULT
Stories by Emily Fridlund

Winner of the 2015 Mary McCarthy
Prize in Fiction

“Her stories evoke Flannery O’Connor’s masterly way with grotesquery but deviate in Fridlund’s contempt for faith. Bracing, often brilliant stories deliver a shock to the routine narratives we tell.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

“This is fiction as excavation, peeling away the machinery of people and converting it to narrative.... Hardly a line goes by in these stories without some piercing bit of wisdom or destabilizing insight, and Fridlund does this with a light, swift hand, building stories of wit and misunderstanding and loss that are spilling over with seductive revelations.”

—Ben Marcus, judge



Selected by Ben Marcus as winner of the Mary McCarthy Prize in Short Fiction, *Catapult* follows Emily Fridlund’s acclaimed debut novel *History of Wolves*. Sometimes calculating, other times bewildered, *Catapult*’s characters orbit around each other enacting the deeply human tragicomedy of wit, misunderstanding, and loss. With dexterous, atmospheric, and darkly comic prose, Fridlund conjures worlds where longing is open-ended, intentions misfire, and the line between comfort and cruelty is often difficult to discern. This is a gripping collection, unsettling as much in its familiarity as in its near-gothic strangeness.

Emily Fridlund grew up in Minnesota and currently lives in the Finger Lakes region of New York. She holds a PhD in Literature and Creative Writing from the University of Southern California. Fridlund’s first novel *History of Wolves* was a Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers Selection, a *New York Times* Editor’s Choice, one of *USA Today*’s Notable Books, an Amazon Best Book of the Month, and a #1 Indie Next pick.

OCTOBER 2017. PAPERBACK, 240 PAGES, 5.5 x 8.5, \$16.95

TP: 978-1-946448-05-7 | EB: 978-1-946448-06-4

Selected Backlist

ANIMALS STRIKE CURIOUS POSES

Essays by Elena Passarello

“I’ve spent decades reading books on the roles animals play in human cultures, but none have ever made me think, and feel, as much as this one.”

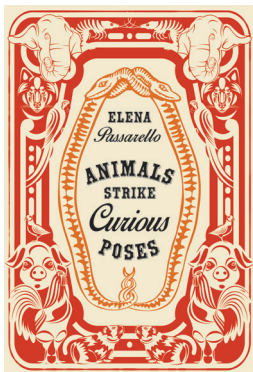
—Helen Macdonald,
The New York Times Book Review

“Passarello’s keen wit is on display throughout as she raises questions about the uniqueness of humans.”

—*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

“Passarello treats her subjects with dextrous care, weaving narratives together in a way that investigates, honors, and complicates her subjects.”

—*Booklist*, starred review



FEBRUARY 2017. PAPER OVER BOARD, 200 PAGES, 5.25 x 7.75, \$19.95

TP: 978-1-941411-39-1 | EB: 978-1-941411-40-7

A TWENTY MINUTE SILENCE FOLLOWED BY APPLAUSE

Essay by Shawn Wen

“Readers will marvel not only at [Marcel] Marceau, but at the book itself, which displays such command of the material and such perfect pitch.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

“It isn’t easy to turn a biography into poetry. But Shawn Wen does exactly that with her portrait of mime artist Marcel Marceau...”

—*The Washington Post*

“These invaluable descriptions by a writer versed in the tradition of making the nonvisible vibrant should be read slowly and with the same seemingly effortless focus Marceau gave to his art.”

—*Booklist*, starred review

AUGUST 2017. PAPERBACK, 136 PAGES, 5.25 x 7.75, \$15.95

TP: 978-1-941411-48-3 | EB: 978-1-946448-01-9

