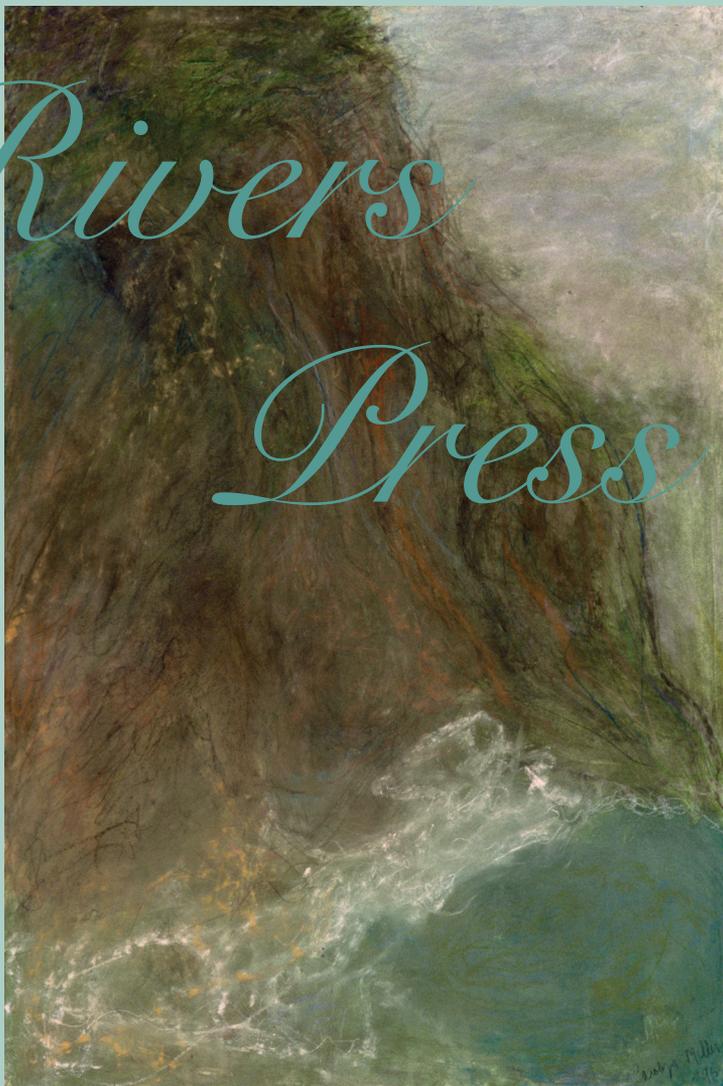


*Sixteen  
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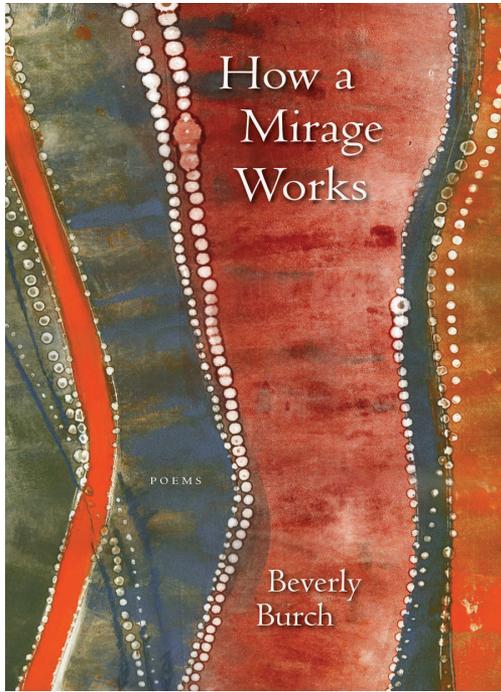
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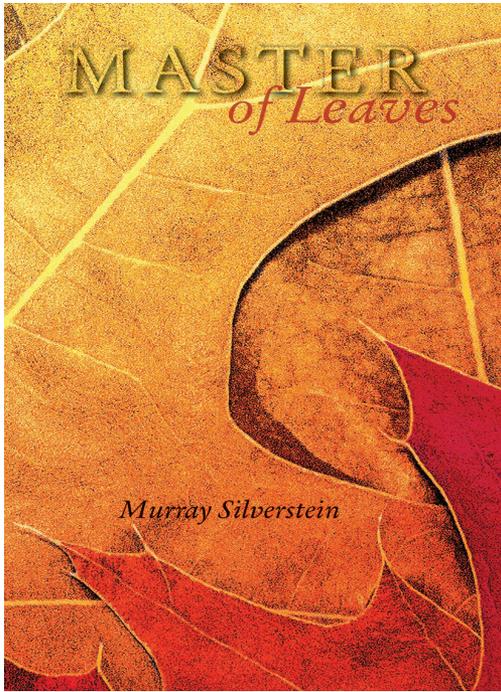
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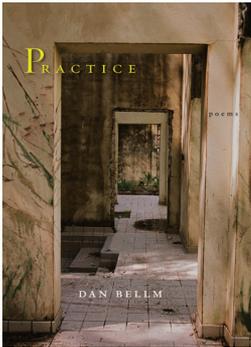
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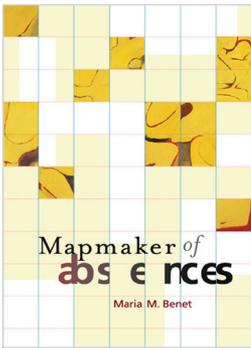


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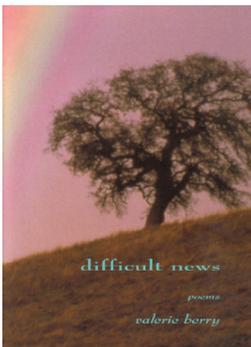
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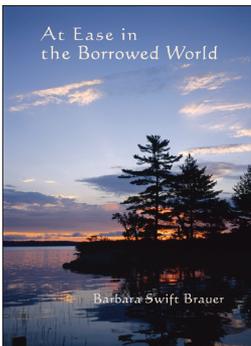
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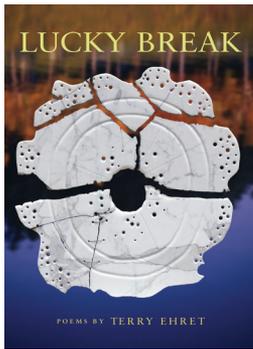


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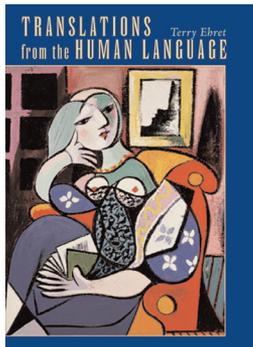


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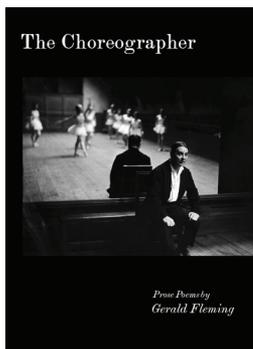
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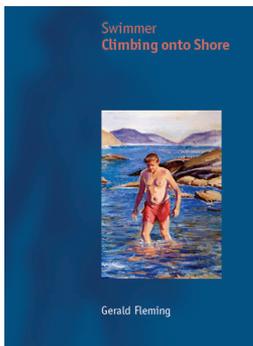


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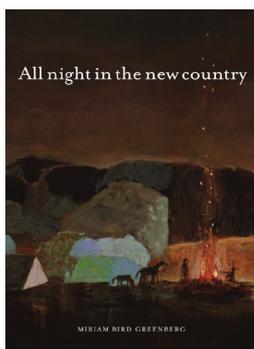
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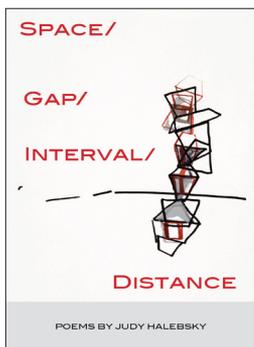
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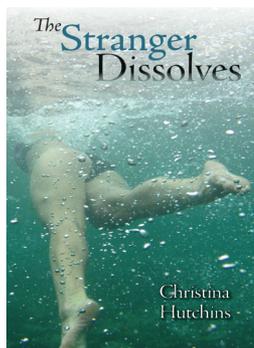
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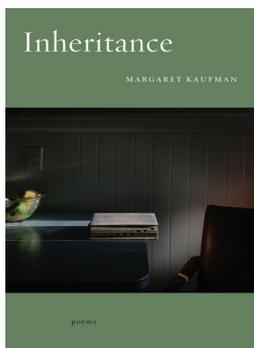
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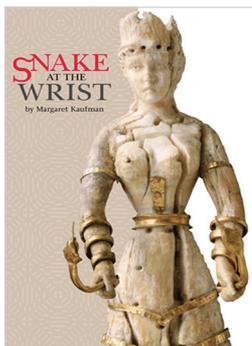
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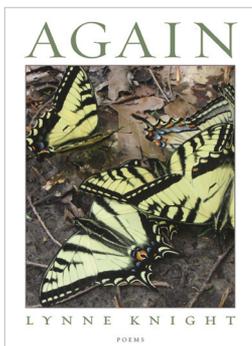
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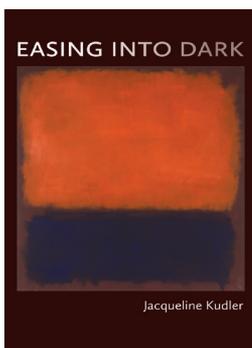
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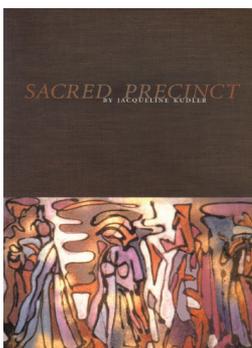
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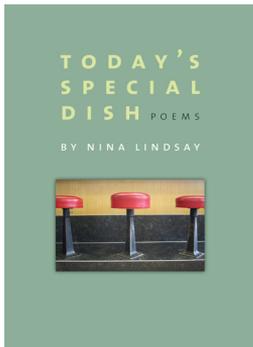


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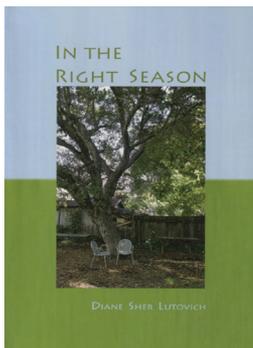
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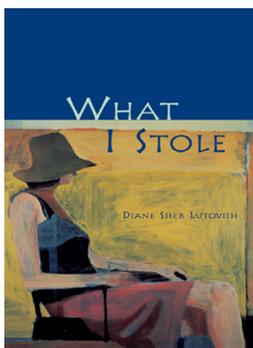


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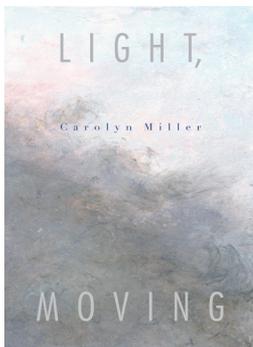
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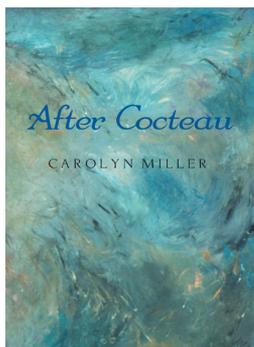


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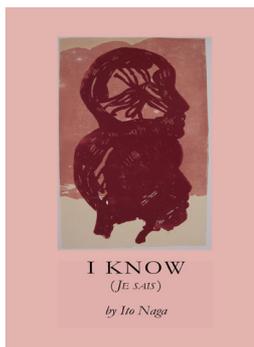


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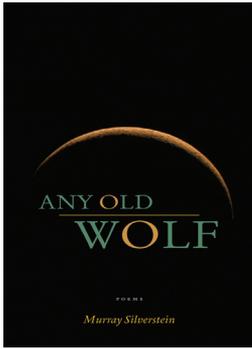
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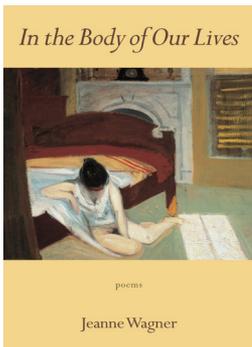
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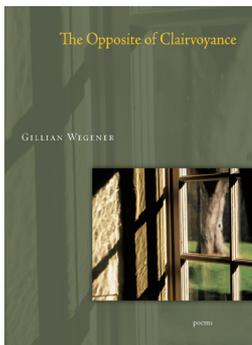
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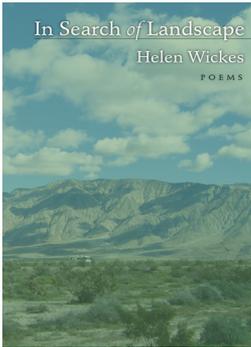
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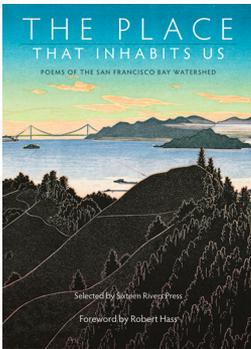
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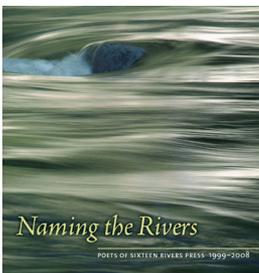
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*At the End, When You Speak*

do not praise me for exceptional  
kindness, for I thought  
to give more than I received,  
not seeing that I have been  
given everything, everything.

Do not wonder either at my good fortune or  
my suffering; only now do I  
begin to see how each contains the other, how  
the birth of each of my daughters is  
inseparable,  
somehow,  
from the other's loss.

And fame, that red berry  
just beyond reach among the thorns —  
say I watched it wither, blacken, pecked by  
birds and left to rot,  
still out of reach,  
still not understood.

Say instead  
I learned to live with hidden  
chocolate, bread baking  
in the oven, children  
singing in the back seat  
all the way home.



## ABOUT SIXTEEN RIVERS PRESS

Sixteen Rivers Press is a shared-work, nonprofit poetry collective dedicated to providing an alternative publishing avenue for San Francisco Bay Area poets. Founded in 1999 by seven writers, the press is named for the sixteen rivers that flow into San Francisco Bay.



We seek manuscripts from Greater Bay Area poets each year during our open-submission period from November 1 to February 1. Authors become members of the press for three years and are actively involved in the production of their books.



For complete submission guidelines, plus more information on the press including books, authors, and readings and other events, please visit [www.sixteenrivers.org](http://www.sixteenrivers.org).

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