

## ABOUT SIXTEEN RIVERS PRESS

Sixteen Rivers Press is a shared-work, nonprofit poetry collective dedicated to providing an alternative publishing avenue for Northern California poets.

Founded in 1999 by seven writers, the press is named for the sixteen rivers that flow into San Francisco Bay.

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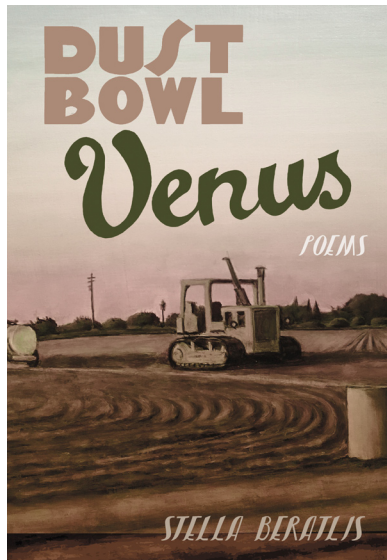


*A Northern California  
Publishing Collective*

## New Titles 2021

STELLA BERATLIS

## *Dust Bowl Venus*



*“Like the seasonal lake bed on which the city of Modesto sits, like the many hands ‘making mud out of dry soil,’ every poem in Stella Berattlis’s Dust Bowl Venus aches toward tenderness. Here, to grow, and to love, is to risk vulnerability. These ‘bone and ligament narratives’ of grief and yearning, illness and healing, perseverance and resistance, beat with so much heart in this fiercely beautiful book.”*

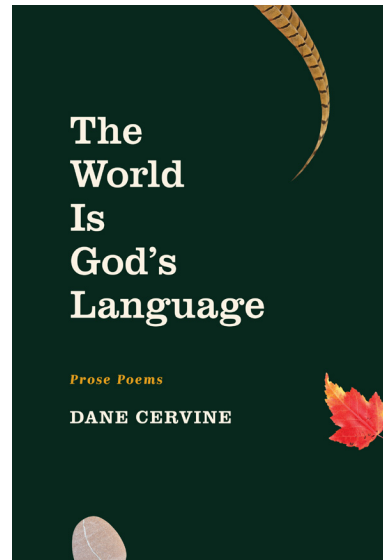
—Erin Rodoni

In *Dust Bowl Venus*, her second powerful collection of poetry, Stella Berattlis explores California’s Great Central Valley, the landscapes of fear and hope in the cancer diagnosis of her daughter, and the landscape of regret—what we have let go and what we have gained from letting go. This book is filled with imagery and emotion that build and curve and accumulate, leaving us breathless, glad for the shifting of the earth that gave us these poems.

\$16 paperback • ISBN: 978-1-939639-25-7 • 80 pages

DANE CERVINE

## *The World Is God’s Language*



*“Dane Cervine’s poems often create a sense of vertigo as the reader is lifted out of the surge of a fractious reality and given an opportunity to contemplate distinct moments isolated from the clamor and roar. In his latest collection, The World Is God’s Language, Cervine reveals a sanctified world built of memory, history, and grace, where God is evanescent, transient but eternal, and where, Cervine makes clear, we are ‘just visiting.’”*

—Gary Young

Dane Cervine’s prose poems are like snapshots, each one revealing an unexpected insight. Sometimes sexy and/or irreverent, always deeply philosophical, these poems are steeped in the place and culture of Northern California while ranging the world from Japan to Bali, Indonesia to India, Central America to the American South. Generous and humane, the work in this collection reminds the reader that poetry can be both joyous and profound.

\$16 paperback • ISBN: 978-1-939639-26-4 • 92 pages

A SAMPLE OF THE POETS’ WORK

*from What Grows Here*

### *3. Holy Basil*

At the intersection of Texas and Crows Landing  
he stands, rosemary in pocket, the man who grows  
the basil.  
All of his life packed—the work of it, the sore  
knees, the sweat—  
into orderly cylinders of regret, fresh with summer’s  
bursting heart. He muses on the city’s blurred stars:  
the songwriter who—  
the baby who—  
the Marine who—

...

All of those sacred, incomparable ones,  
those who live, die, and live again,  
they are here;  
they are making mud  
out of dry soil.

—Stella Berattlis

### *World Yoga*

Yoga in the outdoor Pagoda hexagon with my  
eighty-year-old mother. The thin summer screen  
decorated with orange & green butterflies keeps  
the bugs out, still lets the world in.

A smiling stone Buddha watches every move. Six  
gunshots echo from a rifle in the hills, a hunter  
stalking squirrel, birds, even deer? My mother  
doesn’t mind. Death, she says, is just another way  
the world moves.

—Dane Cervine