Versed

RAE ARMANTROUT

“Always smart, given to sardonic humor, and surprisingly down-to-earth”

Publishers Weekly

Rae Armantrout has always organized her collections of poetry as though they were works in themselves. Versed brings two of these sequences together, offering readers an expanded view of the arc of her writing. The poems in the first section, “Versed,” play with vice and versa, the perversity of human consciousness. They flirt with error and delusion, skating on a thin ice that inevitably cracks. In the second section, “Dark Matter,” the invisible and unknowable are confronted directly as Armantrout’s experience with cancer marks these poems with a new austerity, shot through with her signature wit and stark unsentimental thinking.

Praise for Rae Armantrout’s previous collection, Next Life:

“Poetry that conveys the invention, the wit and the force of a mind that contests all assumptions.”

New York Times

RAE ARMANTROUT is a professor of writing and literature at the University of California, San Diego, and the author of ten books of poetry.

Paris Spleen

little poems in prose

CHARLES BAUDELAIRE

TRANSLATED BY KEITH WALDROP

A modernist classic translated for the twenty-first century

Between 1855 and his death in 1867, Charles Baudelaire inaugurated a new—and in his own words “dangerous”—hybrid form in a series of prose poems known as Paris Spleen. Important and provocative, these fifty poems may be regarded as the textual equivalent of the city scenes of the Impressionists. Here, Keith Waldrop delivers the companion to his innovative translation of The Flowers of Evil. As Richard Sieburth notes, “There, his prose provided a sober caution against poetic inebriation; here it registers the sorry morning-after of the lyric subject.”

“Waldrop’s translations soar…perhaps getting closer to Baudelaire’s rich tone than any other translation.”

Chicago Review

CHARLES BAUDELAIRE (1821–1867) wrote some of the most influential poetry of the nineteenth century. KEITH WALDROP is a poet and translator. His numerous collections include The Selected Poems of Edmond Jabès.
Some Liked It Hot
Jazz Women in Film and Television, 1928–1959

KIRSTIN A. MCGEE

How America viewed jazz women

Some Liked It Hot looks at all-girl bands and jazz women from the 1920s through the 1950s and how they fit into the nascent mass culture, particularly film and television, to uncover some of the historical motivations for excluding women from the now firmly established jazz canon. This well-illustrated book chronicles who appeared where and when in both popular Hollywood productions and in relatively unknown films and television shows. The International Sweethearts of Rhythm, Hazel Scott, the Ingenues, Peggy Lee, and Paul Whiteman are just a few of the performers covered here. Includes a detailed filmography.

“This very important work investigates how questions of gender and race intersected not only with music but with film, television, radio, and the recording industry.”

LUCY FISCHER, director of film studies, University of Pittsburgh

KIRSTIN A. MCGEE is an assistant professor of popular music at the University of Groningen in the Netherlands.

The Place Where You Go to Listen
In Search of an Ecology of Music

JOHN LUTHER ADAMS
FOREWORD BY ALEX ROSS

A personal journey into the soul of the Arctic

Did Alaska create the music of John Luther Adams, or did the music create his Alaska? In this new book Adams proposes a musical ecology, the philosophical foundation on which his largest, most complex musical work is based—a sound and light environment that Adams describes as “a place for hearing the unheard music of the world around us.” The book includes two seminal essays, the composer’s journal, musical notations, and illustrations.

“John Luther Adams is the John Muir of music, reporting back to us from not only the wilderness of the world, but of the soul.”

KYLE GANN, composer, author, former music critic for the Village Voice

JOHN LUTHER ADAMS is one of the most distinctive voices in the American musical landscape, and author of Winter Music (2004). He lives outside Fairbanks. ALEX ROSS is the music critic for the New Yorker, and author of The Rest Is Noise (2007).
Martha Hill and the Making of American Dance
JANET MANSFIELD SOARES

A lively and intimate portrait of an unsung heroine in American dance

Martha Hill (1900–1995) was one of the most influential figures of twentieth century American dance. Her vision and leadership helped to establish dance as a serious area of study at the university level and solidify its position as a legitimate art form. She created pivotal opportunities for Martha Graham, Hanya Holm, José Limón, Merce Cunningham, and many others. Setting Hill’s story in the context of American postwar culture and women’s changing status, this riveting biography takes us from the Kellogg School of Physical Education to Bennington College and the American Dance Festival to the Juilliard School at Lincoln Center. Lavishly illustrated with period photographs.

“A superb book about the great Martha Hill, a visionary who supported the revolutionary pioneers of American modern dance. This portrait is at once intimate and touching. A must for all lovers of dance and its history.”

LAWRENCE RHODES, artistic director, dance division, The Juilliard School


The Jewel-Hinged Jaw
Notes on the Language of Science Fiction
SAMUEL R. DELANY
INTRODUCTION BY MATTHEW CHENEY

An indispensable work of science fiction criticism revised and expanded

The Jewel-Hinged Jaw appeared originally in 1977, and is now long out of print and hard to find. Its demonstration that science fiction was a special language began reverberations still felt in science fiction criticism, and Delany’s close textual analyses read as brilliantly today as when they first appeared. According to Reginald Shepherd, “These essays glitter with insights into writing, reading, society, and the multiple relationships of the three.” Includes two new essays.

“I re-read The Jewel-Hinged Jaw every year as a source of guidance, as a measure of what all criticism and literature should aspire to be, and as a challenge for those of us who want to write.”

JUNOT DÍAZ, Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist

Winner of both Hugo and Nebula awards and the Pilgrim Award for science fiction scholarship, SAMUEL R. DELANY currently teaches English and creative writing at Temple University. MATTHEW CHENEY is a columnist for Strange Horizons.
The Fire in the Stone
Prehistoric Fiction from Charles Darwin to Jean M. Auel

NICHOLAS RUDDICK

The first comprehensive study of prehistoric fiction

The genre of prehistoric fiction contains a surprisingly large and diverse group of fictional works by American, British, and French writers from the late nineteenth century to the present that describe prehistoric humans. Exploring the history and evolution of the genre, Ruddick shows how prehistoric fiction can offer fascinating insights into the possible origins of human nature, sexuality, racial distinctions, language, religion, and art. The book includes discussions of well-known prehistoric fiction by H.G. Wells, Jules Verne, J.-H. Rosny Aîné, Jack London, William Golding, Arthur C. Clarke, and Jean M. Auel and many others.

“There is no other book that connects studies of evolution to mainstream fiction so thoroughly and thoughtfully.”

DAVID SEED, professor of American literature, Liverpool University

NICHOLAS RUDDICK is a professor of English at the University of Regina and author of Ultimate Island: On the Nature of British Science Fiction (1993).

On Joanna Russ

EDITED BY FARAH MENDLESOHN

Essays on one of science fiction and feminism’s most original voices

Joanna Russ, a feminist writer best known for The Female Man (1975), has produced a fierce, intense body of fiction and essays whose influence has been wide-ranging and complex. The essays in this volume examine every aspect of Russ’s body of work and provide a critical assessment that is long overdue.

Contributors include:

Andrew M. Butler  Keridwen Luis  Jenéa Tallentire  Gary K. Wolfe
Brian Charles Clark  Paul March-Russell  Jason Vest  Lisa Yaszek
Samuel R. Delany  Helen Merrick  Sherryl Vint
Edward James  Dianne Newell  Pat Wheeler
Sandra Lindow  Graham Sleight  Tess Williams

“The variety of scholarship in On Joanna Russ is stupendous—I enjoyed every minute, was excited and energized and, most importantly, want to go re-read all of Russ with these essays in mind.”

ROBIN ANNE REID, professor of literature and languages, Texas A&M University–Commerce

FARAH MENDLESOHN teaches at Middlesex University, London. She is the author of Rhetorics of Fantasy (2008) and co-editor of The Cambridge Companion to Science Fiction (2006), winner of a Hugo Award.
**Stories in Stone**
How Geology Influenced Connecticut History and Culture

**JELLE ZEILINGA DE BOER**

*Exploring Connecticut’s unique geology*

Geology shaped Connecticut’s physical landscape, provided an economic base, and inspired art and folklore. In a series of entertaining essays, geoscientist Jelle Zeilinga de Boer describes how early settlers discovered and exploited Connecticut’s geologic resources. Their successes and failures form the very basis of the state’s history. Amply illustrated, *Stories in Stone* explains Connecticut’s geologic diversity and recounts the impacts of climate changes, earthquakes, and meteorites on the people who made this state their home.

“*Stories in Stone* digs deep and hits gold. De Boer excavates a quarry of geologic delight about the Connecticut landscape and its human history. The stories he unearths give life to Connecticut’s hills, valleys, and inscrutable depths.”

**MICHAEL BELL**, author of *The Face of Connecticut: People, Geology, and the Land*

**JELLE ZEILINGA DE BOER** is the Harold T. Stearns Professor of Earth Science emeritus at Wesleyan University and author, with D.T. Sanders, of *Volcanoes in Human History* (2002) and *Earthquakes in Human History* (2005).

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**Original Discontents**
Commentaries on the Creation of Connecticut’s Constitution of 1818

**EDITED BY RICHARD BUEL JR. AND GEORGE J. WILLAUER**

*Primary documents illuminate the second Hartford Convention*

The second Hartford convention, in 1818, drafted a constitution that reformed the structure of government established in the state’s Charter of 1662; parts of this Constitution of 1818 survive in Connecticut’s present form of government. *Original Discontents* contains twenty-five selections of newspaper and pamphlet commentary about this constitutional revision, introduced and annotated by the editors, along with text of the Fundamental Orders of 1639, the Charter of Connecticut (1662), and the Constitution of 1818. This anthology is useful to all students of Connecticut history and relevant to enduring constitutional debates.

John Warner Barber’s Views of Connecticut Towns, 1834–36
EDITED BY CHRISTOPHER P. BICKFORD AND J. BARD MCNULTY

The earliest known images of many Connecticut towns
This charming volume is a collection of ink washes produced by engraver and popular American historian John Warner Barber (1798–1885), each depicting a specific locale in a Connecticut town. In creating these drawings, Barber sought realism, but also to portray the beauty in rural nature and the peacefulness and harmony of small-town life. The drawings, most never published before, are accompanied by contemporary descriptions of the view and buildings, and the changes that have occurred there since the mid-nineteenth century.


Gilgamesh
A Verse Play
YUSEF KOMUNYAKAA AND CHAD GRACIA

The first dramatic adaptation of Gilgamesh
Bringing new life to the world’s oldest story, Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Yusef Komunyakaa and dramaturg Chad Gracia have refashioned a classic Sumerian legend into a compelling verse play. This new version is like no other and will take its place among the most powerful and engaging interpretations of this timeless tale. According to Publishers Weekly, “this is a dramatic work of sinewy vitality, with a real hero who moves and breathes on the stage.”

“Unique, powerful, and beautifully succinct, this Gilgamesh is marked by Komunyakaa’s personal style and vision. He and Gracia wipe the dust off of the old broken cuneiform tablets and make the characters in the epic come alive.”

RICHARD CECIL, author of Twenty First Century Blues

YUSEF KOMUNYAKAA is a professor in the creative writing department at New York University; CHAD GRACIA is a theater producer and consultant. He has edited six verse plays and writes extensively on theater.

The Sights Along the Harbor
New and Collected Poems
HARVEY SHAPIRO

The comprehensive collection of a master of the American modern form
Direct, informal, and richly evocative of his Jewish heritage and New York City home, Harvey Shapiro’s poetry has occupied a unique place in American letters for over fifty years. The Sights Along the Harbor brings together his latest work and much of his previous collections, revealing the full arc of his carefully calibrated poetics. This poetry is intimately attuned both to life’s quiet disappointments and to its unanticipated miracles. The New York Times Book Review has described Shapiro as “a venerable American original whose small poems at their tonic best are as large as life.”

“What Shapiro can do with the first-person, anecdotal mode is close kin to a jazz master’s version of an old standard. This gathering, warm and alive, is a national treasure.”

NORMAN FINKELSTEIN

HARVEY SHAPIRO is the author of thirteen books of poetry. In his career as a journalist, he has served as editor of the New York Times Book Review and senior editor of the New York Times Magazine. He lives in Brooklyn, New York.