



Interview with Tim Seibles

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Etruscan author Tim Seibles received the Theodore Roethke Memorial Poetry Prize yesterday at a ceremony held at Saginaw Valley State University in Michigan. The triennial award recognized his most recent book of poems, *Fast Animal*, released by Etruscan Press in 2012.

In an interview with Etruscan graduate assistant Nathan Summerlin, Seibles recounted a funny twist in how he learned of receiving the Roethke Prize, "I was looking through email on my computer at school, and I saw this thing, "Tim Seibles... Theodore Roethke Prize..." Now, coincidentally, I have loved Theodore Roethke's poems for years and years, and many of my good friends know that. They know I dig Roethke--and I didn't know there was a prize in his name! So, when I saw Theodore Roethke Prize, I thought one of my friends was playing a joke on me! *Fast Animal* had been out for two years, and usually the window for awards is about a year, maybe a little more; and then your book is kind of seen as an older, however silly that may seem. So, I got the PEN Oakland Award, and I'd been a finalist for the National Book Award, and God knows you couldn't ask for more. I wasn't sitting around thinking, "There's got to be another award!" So, I had stopped thinking about this book being news in the literary world. So the first time I read the letter, I read it kind of quickly, looking for a punchline." Eventually he spoke with someone at the foundation and found out that, of course, the prize was real.



Paul C. Chaffee presents the Roethke Prize to Tim Seibles

Seibles also talked about interests outside of poetry, including tennis, "That's what I do when I want to be outside my brain--exist as an agile and worthy mammal on the tennis court for a while. Not thinking analytically, just moving, reacting, moving, reacting. Feeling the angles. There's a ton of freedom in those moments. You're just somewhere else." Another interest is playing guitar, "I really want to figure out how to make music. What does it mean to compose music? I've been a composer of language for years, but how do you find a melody? So I take guitar lessons once every two weeks and try to practice four or five days a week, sometimes just thirty minutes, sometimes an hour and a half, two hours, sometimes more."

Nathan Summerlin is a graduate assistant at Wilkes University's graduate creative writing program. He has no ability to feel the angles in tennis but does play a little guitar.

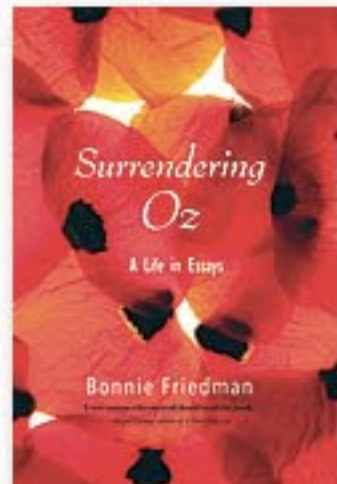
[Read the entire interview with Tim Seibles at etruscanpress.org](http://etruscanpress.org)

New Releases from Etruscan

Quick Kills chronicles the desperate longing to belong as well as the effects of neglect, familial absence, and the nature of secrets. The young female narrator is seduced by an older man who convinces her that she is the perfect subject for his photographs. Never clearly delineating the border between art and pornography, the narrator's escalating disquiet is evidence that lines have been crossed. Lurie insists that we look, keep looking, make beauty from the ruin, and live.



Surrendering Oz is a memoir in essays that charts the emotional awakening of a bookish Bronx girl. From her early job as a proofreader at *The Guinness Book of World Records* through a series of dominating and liberating friendships and secret connections, the author takes charge of her life as a Texas professor, writer, and wise student of her own soul.



Planting of Etruscan's First "Little Free Libraries"



Little Free Library in Youngstown, Ohio

Etruscan Press and Youngstown State University Poetry Outreach Program planted the first two Little Free Libraries during the past three months. The first "planting" was at the Fairgreen Neighborhood Garden in Youngstown, Ohio followed by a planting at the Youngstown and Mahoning Valley Public Library.

Little Free Libraries are free standing containers stocked with books for the community to either borrow from or add to in order to encourage reading and support through community cohesiveness.

"As part of our Outreach Program, the YSU Poetry Center aims to bring the University community and the Youngstown community together through music and literature," said Philip Brady, YSU professor of English and executive director of Etruscan Press. "The Little Free Library will provide that bridge by giving community members and YSU students local and national literature to share. It's all about sharing song, story and locally grown food."

The Little Free Library will be registered with the "Little Free Library Project," a non-profit organization that supports reading and community unity all over the United States. Etruscan plans to install additional Libraries near its offices in Youngstown and Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

About Etruscan Press:

Housed at Wilkes University and partnering with Youngstown State University, Etruscan is a non-profit literary press working to produce and promote books that nurture the dialogue among genres, cultures, and voices.

For the latest Etruscan events, please visit [our website](http://etruscanpress.org).