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etruscan press



## Interview with H. L. Hix

“I feel completely flooded,” says Etruscan author H. L. Hix, “I can’t write fast enough to keep up with the stuff that wants to come out.”

Hix is no stranger to writing. With Etruscan Press alone, he’s released 12 books of both poetry and essays. His most recent release, a collection of poetry titled *American Anger*, was released in February. When it comes to the things that inspire him to write, Hix explains that there are so many things that he can’t work fast enough. “I have so much that wants to come out, and I just don’t have time to do it all. There’s always a list of projects backed up ready to go if something stalls out.” He believes that this constant desire to write has, at

least in some part, to do with his personality traits.

Writing for Hix often starts with a text of some sort. “Text invokes some other language or asks to be manipulated, but very often it’s some piece of sound or fragment of text that imposes itself on me in some way. Then the process becomes a kind of listening, trying to attend to the language.” After being captured by something inspiring, he generates writing that very often doesn’t make the cut. “I run through a lot of drafts...and experiment with things and try to make up silly little rules of language and generate text,” he explains. “Most of it is not interesting and gets thrown away, but something that comes up will spark an idea or generate more language or associate itself with other language.”

The works that were generated into what composes *American Anger* has certainly struck a chord with audiences. For Hix, while the writing process itself is for the words and words alone, audiences are something to consider both before getting to writing and after finishing the writing process. “For example, with *American Anger*, I imagined a very broad audience; broader than the usual poetry audience. And I’m conscious of audience afterwards because I have an obligation to the work to try to help it find its audience.” Considering the broader, atypical poetry audience has certainly paid off for Hix. The collection has garnered reviews from outlets such as *Library Journal*, *Publishers Weekly*, and *NPR*.

[For the full interview, go to etruscanpress.org](http://etruscanpress.org)

*Emily Leonick served as an editorial associate at Etruscan Press during the Spring 2016 semester. She has completed her B.A. in English at Wilkes University.*

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## New Releases from Etruscan

We are pleased to have David Lazar, editor at *Hotel Amerika*, join the wonderful brigade of authors published at Etruscan Press. *Who’s Afraid of Helen of Troy: An Essay on Love* showcases a sequence of poems; a meditation on love myth in concentric circles of Eros and Thanatos. It is a pas de deux with a



loss, high modern and classical. Lazar's piece of literature displays his writing in a manner of shaping vibrant poems. Maxine Chernoff (*Without and A House in Summer*) notes how "Lazar explores the magical possibilities of language to create a rich harmony, ringing in a panorama of fragments, remembered and gleefully conjured." This collection evokes emotion in the subjects of the ravages of love, how we deserve it, and whether we care to recover. His accomplishments such as: Outstanding Professor Award Winner of Ohio University and selections in "Notable Essays of the Year" in *Best American Essays* shows his caliber and dedication.

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## Etruscan at AWP '16 in LA



The City of Angels welcomed Etruscan authors and staff alike for the 49th annual AWP Conference and Book Fair. The Association of Writers and Writing Programs Conference and Book Fair, or

AWP, boasted over 12,000 attendees—in the form of authors, publishers, presses, writing programs, and staff.

AWP features 550 events, with over 2,000 presenters, and Etruscan authors participated in various ways: panels, book signings, and readings...both within the conference and at off-site events in the Los Angeles area. Etruscan, in conjunction with our partner, Wilkes University, hosted book signings featuring: Bruce Bond, Laurie Jean Cannady, Renée D'Aoust, David Lazar, Diane Raptosh, and Tim Seibles. Cannady and Lazar were also seen signing books at other booths around the Book Fair, while David Lazar, Diane Raptosh and Tim Seibles read and signed books at off-site events. Kazim Ali, Bruce Bond, Renée D'Aoust, David Lazar, Paul Lisicky, and Tim Seibles also served on panels throughout the weekend.

Etruscan co-sponsored the annual AWP Old School Slam and Open Mic which was held on both Thursday and Friday nights. Winners of the slam were awarded Etruscan gift bags, complete with their choice of three Etruscan books. Slam attendees flocked to Twitter, using #AWPOldSchoolSlam to enter their name for an Etruscan sponsored contest. One winner was named each night of the Slam, and the prize was a book of the winner's choosing.

Next year will be the 50th anniversary of AWP, and the staff is already looking forward to the event, which will be held in Washington, D.C. from February 8-11, 2017.

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## 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](#).

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