Etruscan Press is a nonprofit organization producing and promoting books that nurture a dialogue among genres and cultures. We encourage you to join and support our mission. For more information visit our website or email us at books@etruscanpress.org.

A note from the Executive Director...

When I am alone
how close my friends are;
When I am with them
How distant they are!
—Antonio Machado

Not in my lifetime has the world felt so close and so achingly far. While Etruscans have been working in disparate places for years—Youngstown, Chestertown, Wilkes-Barre, Binghamton and parts unknown—this year those distances have stretched to global scale and shrunk to the mind’s radiant garret. In the pandemic, our 2021 titles take on new implications, attuned to intimate distances.

In *Wait for God to Notice*, Sari Fordham conjures an unreachable childhood in Uganda. Spoken word poet Angelique Palmer’s *After Dark* charts ancient and post-modern paths between sign and utterance. And Tim Seibles’ magnus opus, *Voodoo Libretto*, links forty years of verse by one of America’s most beloved poets. Finally, *Trio*, our second offering under the Etruscan imprint, Tribus, joins three books, conceived independently, but somehow sparking intersections among themes as far-reaching as the signifiers of geology, a historically neglected suffragette, and generations of mother-daughter bonding.

Antonio Machado, we lean toward you to listen, eons off.

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Robert Carioscia, David Hicks

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*Contemplation, 2017*

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ASSOCIATION OF WRITERS AND WRITING PROGRAMS
Small Press Publisher Award Finalist

Etruscan Press was named one of four finalists for the 2021 AWP Small Press Publisher Award by the Association of Writers and Writing Programs. The award recognizes a press or literary journal that has made a significant contribution to contemporary literature. This is Etruscan’s second nomination; the press was previously nominated for the Small Press Award in 2017.

The Etruscan editorial team were in their own corners of the world when the news came in, working from home as is typical in these times. Yet, while separated by space, they were united in the singular joy of being recognized for, as Executive Director Phil Brady put it, “The work you hold in loving custody.”

“In the sludge of daily emails—buy, sell, compare, submit—it appears: a message that doesn’t query or remind or coax or palaver,” Brady said. “An act of acceptance. Of gratitude. A thrill. I’m delighted to inform…” ‘Warm Congratulations…’ ‘It is with great pleasure…’ This one—the Small Press Award Nomination (our second time!) is especially rewarding because it links us to presses I admire—Noemi and Dzanc and of course the winner, Milkweed. In the small press world, Milkweed is venerable. They’ve been around since the seventies; they are in their second generation—a place Etruscan aspires to, one day. And so I daydream that one day in 2040, an e-mail will arrive at Etruscanpress.org. ‘I’m delighted to inform’ it will begin.”

Pamela Turchin, Etruscan’s Production Editor, noted the same sentiment of the forgettable mundane broken with momentous news of the award. “When I heard we had been nominated, I was probably either shoveling snow from the various blizzards we’ve had here in Pennsylvania or dealing with a broken water pump that flooded my basement,” Turchin said. “I felt honored to be a part of this process and thrilled that our team effort was recognized for all the work we do every day.”

Executive Editor Robert Mooney remarked, “I’d been writing (what else would an old scribe be doing on a snowy Wednesday afternoon?) and was taking a break, looking up out of the foxhole to see what was going on beyond my desk.” The view beyond his foxhole was bright: “It was wonderful news to receive. It felt like applause. In fact, it felt like a curtain call. This is the second time we’ve been named a finalist for this recognition, so there is no doubt AWP truly does recognize Etruscan as a press that has, as the citation reads, ‘made a significant contribution to contemporary literature.’”

For Managing Editor Bill Schneider, the announcement came amidst another sort of triumph. Proving all the possibilities that come from the strength of human will and spirit, Schneider was recovering from his COVID-19 vaccination. Feeling lethargic and sore, he finished up a Zoom meeting. “Then I walked my puppy, Max, through the snow-covered park adjacent to my apartment,” Schneider said. “We returned home to find the email confirming Etruscan was named a finalist for the 2021 AWP Small Press Award. I immediately forwarded the email to the Etruscan editorial team. Then, Max and I celebrated with a martini for me, and a Kong filled with treats for him. It is beyond wonderful to be recognized by your peers! In an industry where Etruscan has achieved its mission to nurture the dialogue among genres, cultures, and voices, it is an honor to be named a Small Press Award finalist by AWP.”

Mary Poth earned a B.A. in Professional Writing from Kutztown University and an M.A. in Fiction from the Maslow Graduate Creative Writing Program at Wilkes University. Poth is currently pursuing her M.F.A. in Creative Writing at Wilkes University where she serves as an intern for Etruscan Press.
Wait for God to Notice

Memoir

SARI FORDHAM
Available Spring 2021

In the midst of Idi Amin’s dictatorship, Sari and her family moved to Uganda as Seventh-day Adventist missionaries. In lush and observant prose, Sari describes the country she loves, the dangers her family faces, her parents’ conflict, and the insular, peculiar faith that shaped her.

Sari Fordham has lived in Uganda, Kenya, Thailand, South Korea, and Austria. She received an M.F.A. from the University of Minnesota, and now teaches at La Sierra University. She lives in California with her husband and daughter. This is her first book.

6x9 | 296 pp | $19.00 | 978-1-7336741-5-7
eBook | $9.99 | 978-1-7364946-0-8

Trio: Planet Parable, Run, and Endless Body

Poetry

KAREN DONOVAN, DIANE RAPTOSH, DANEEN WARDROP
Available Spring 2021

The poems in Planet Parable discover unexpected meaning in the quotidian recorded against the revelatory background hum of the world. Run, Diane Raptosh’s collection, brings to life one of America’s most controversial suffragists, Victoria Woodhull, giving a voice to her immediate circle. Daneen Wardrop’s Endless Body realizes a mother-daughter-mother lineage through music, quest, and a growing awareness of the body of the world.


7x10 | 320 pp | $20.00 | 978-1-7336741-7-1
Also Dark

Poetry

ANGELIQUE PALMER

Available Fall 2021

Also Dark is fresh from the pen of Angelique Palmer. A Black Woman Queer Mama forced to forge her own armor and create her own path. Bigotry, ageism, sexism, colorism, homophobia, and ableism are given voice and a voracious opponent in her poems.

Angelique Palmer is a performance poet, a finalist in the 2015 Women of the World Poetry Slam, and a member of the 2017 Busboys and Poets/Beltway Poetry Slam Team. Author of The Chambermaid’s Style Guide, she’s a Florida State University Creative Writing graduate who calls northern Virginia home.

6x9 | 88 pp | $17.00 | 978-0-9897532-7-2

Voodoo Libretto

New & Selected Poems

Poetry

TIM SEIBLES

Available Fall 2021

“When the world grows nostalgic,” Cornelius Eady says, “Seibles swings real. When the world turns bitter, he stretches out his arms in verse. When the world tries to deny, he stares it in the face and tells the truth. Then asks it for a dance.”

In his introduction, Seibles writes, “For me, poetry is the place where—if I am not intimidated—I can say the most dangerous, most tender, most mysterious things I know, where I may find the same in the work of other poets. It is a place where clarity subverts the half-said, the never said, so that wakefulness might be magnified, emboldened.” Kwame Dawes says, “These are profoundly vulnerable poems that are distinguished by the risk and daring that we expect from our best poets.”

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Sheryl St. Germain

50 Miles is a memoir in linked essays that addresses addiction and alcoholism. The book traces the life and death of the author's son, Gray, a talented but troubled young man.

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H. L. Hix

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Aard-vark to Axolotl
Karen Donovan

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Essays, 107 pages, trade paper
$15.00 (978-0-9977455-6-6)

American Fugue
Alexis Stamatis

This literary thriller follows the odyssey of a Greek writer traveling a strange and compelling landscape, where he re-discovers America—and himself.

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All The Difference
Patricia Horvath

All The Difference is a captivating account of the author's transformation from a disabled young woman to someone who could pass for able-bodied, detailing experiences with bracing and spinal fusion and the literature of physical transformation.

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Bruce Mills

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**No Hurry**  
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*A Poetic Conversation*
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Literary Criticism, 201 pages, trade paper
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I started planning an eight-week book tour for *Fifty Miles* in early 2019. With the help and generosity of friends and colleagues, I’d managed to put together a tour for 2020 that would span nine cities and seven states. *Fifty Miles* is a memoir about addiction, grief and healing that focuses on my son Gray, who died in 2014 of a heroin overdose, and my own struggles with substance abuse and recovery. I knew it was going to be difficult to read from it, night after night, but it felt important to spread some compassionate and what I hoped would be read as thoughtful lyricism about those we love who fall into the river of addiction. In conversation with a fellow poet, Ed Hirsch, who lost his own young son to drugs and wrote a poetry book inspired by him, Ed said to me that we can’t market books like these, rather we have to hope that they will fall into the hands of those that need them. I hoped this book tour might help find those hands.

The tour started with a book launch in early spring in Pittsburgh, my current home, and a reading at nearby Wilkes-Barre, home of Etruscan. I then flew to New York City for another reading. A close friend of my son, the artist, Morgan Everhart, came to this reading, which made it especially meaningful. We had used a painting she did inspired by Gray on the cover of a book of my poems that had come out in 2018, *The Small Door of Your Death* (Autumn House).

On March 1 we left for the first (driving) leg of the tour, with my generous husband Teake driving. We knew about the virus, but none of my events had been cancelled yet, and we hadn’t yet realized how bad it was going to get. The Association of Writers and Writing Programs was still planning to hold its conference in San Antonio, where I was scheduled to do a signing with Etruscan for *Fifty Miles*, so I figured it couldn’t be that bad. Two days later we were in Dallas, and things had quickly worsened. I had a reading at a bookstore there, and spent a few days with old friends and former students. I lived for 13 years in Dallas and spent my first teaching years there. I was moved to see some of the very first students I taught in the audience at the reading. Meanwhile, more disturbing information was coming forward about COVID-19 and its danger to the elderly. We were headed to San Antonio to do the signing, then our plan was to drive to New Orleans where we had just placed my mother in an assisted living facility. We planned to spend a couple weeks in New Orleans helping my mother, selling her house and hosting an estate sale before I participated in the annual Tennessee Williams Festival.

But as we readied to leave Dallas for San Antonio, I began to have second thoughts. What if I picked something up at the conference and brought it to my mother? I decided the risk was too great, and with sadness informed Etruscan that I was going to skip AWP. Instead, we headed straight to Louisiana.

We had lots of time in the car, while driving, to listen to NPR and catch up on what was happening with the virus. Although there weren’t many cases in New Orleans yet, I began to think about how
quickly it might spread there. Having been born and raised in New Orleans, I knew how important huge festivals like Mardi Gras were, but also that there were lots of spring festivals where there would be large gatherings of people. And I knew how my community there loved to drink and party and be in large crowds. As of this date Louisiana is one of the three hot spots for the virus in the U.S. with 9,150 cases and 310 deaths as of this writing, the majority of which are in the New Orleans area.

We arrived in New Orleans March 8. We sold my mother’s house on March 11, and the family went out to eat lunch—raw oysters, gumbo and po-boys—with my mother at our favorite restaurant. Meanwhile, emails from Georgia, Illinois, Iowa and Maryland slowly trickled in saying that all of my events had been cancelled.

A couple of days after we closed on the house, my mother’s assisted living facility went on lock down. We were not going to be able to see her for the foreseeable future. We would learn later that a resident and staff member both tested positive for the virus, and the former would die. We hosted a two-day estate sale that weekend for my mother’s possessions, which included thousands of books and old records. I wore gloves and tried to be as careful as possible during the sale, but there were times when 40 or so people seemed crammed into my mother’s tiny house. I gave away a few copies of *Fifty Miles* to a few special people who took books and were interested in learning about my mother because her book collection was so vast and rich.

During the estate sale I received a communication from the organizers of the Tennessee Williams Festival that they were cancelling the festival. Meanwhile the number of confirmed cases in New Orleans was increasing drastically, and I was worried about our getting sick and being stuck in New Orleans, unable to see my mother, and in an old, tiny house with almost no furniture, still lots of books, but also heaps of rat and roach poison sprinkled everywhere. We packed up what we could, including all the copies of *Fifty Miles* I had hoped to sell, and started the two-day drive home. The first night on the road my husband developed a cough and 101 fever. We pushed through the next day, sharing driving. We both fell ill with flu-like symptoms for two weeks, but tested negative for COVID-19, and are feeling better now.

What started as a journey to spread the word about the epidemic of drug overdoses, inspired by personal experience and my son’s death, morphed into a journey dominated by the fear of the growing epidemic of a new virus strain. For now, my words of grief, healing and recovery are muted by a currently more aggressive disease. I’m grateful to Etruscan, and all the friends and colleagues who were willing to help try to get this book into the hands of those that need it, and hopeful that in the future this virus will lessen its grip on us and the book will fall into more hands of those that need it.

Sheryl St. Germain is a poet and essayist whose work has received numerous awards. Her most recent books include *Fifty Miles* (Etruscan Press, 2020), and a poetry collection, *The Small Door of Your Death* (Autumn House Press, 2018). Sheryl directed the M.F.A. program in Creative Writing at Chatham University in Pittsburgh for 14 years, and is co-founder of the Words Without Walls program.
When the COVID-19 pandemic turned the world upside down, our outreach program made a crucial pivot to a virtual platform. The Etruscan Press Virtual Outreach Program was created to continue our efforts to enhance the educational experience of the literary and academic communities by connecting students and educators with professionals in the national contemporary world of film and literature.

Having recorded over 50 new interviews and readings by authors, filmmakers, scholars, publishers, editors, and literary agents, we are developing a virtual platform to feature and promote these videos. We are also generating ancillary educational material including annotations, bios, playlists, closed captions, and study guides, to integrate the interviews into school curricula, as well as student and community organizations.

Instructors, administrators, and student groups may contact us to request interactive sessions with any of the professionals interviewed. By offering access to nationally renowned professionals in the arts, the Etruscan Press Virtual Outreach Program will prepare students to consider and evaluate educational, vocational, and career opportunities, while deepening their appreciation for the literary arts, filmmaking, and the publishing world.

The program builds on the readings and interviews displayed on our website. The readings fulfill the need for performative art, the visceral experience of hearing writers read their work that the community has been missing because of the pandemic. The interviews delve into conversations about the specifics of the individual's career, how they got to where they are, day-to-day work, advice, and other valuable information for those learning about, just starting out, or looking to further their literary interest and career.

While the Etruscan Press Virtual Outreach Program was established to continue crucial connections in a safe and effective way during the pandemic, converting to online outreach expands our scope worldwide to any person in the literary arts and education community that has an internet connection.
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Website Development
Take on a variety of projects to enhance Etruscan virtual presence.
2020 Etruscan Press Highlights

Etruscan Press named one of four finalists for the 2021 AWP Small Press Publisher award

*Topographies* by Stephen Benz named 2020 Housatonic Books Awards for Nonfiction finalist and 2019 *Foreword Reviews* INDIES Book of the Year finalist

The Academy of Poets, Community of Literary Magazines and Presses, and the National Book Foundation awarded an operating grant to Etruscan through the Literary Arts Emergency Fund

*50 Miles* author Sheryl St. Germain received the Louisiana Writer Award

Etruscan authors Tim Seibles and Sheryl St. Germain featured at Maslow Family Graduate Program at Wilkes University during January 2020 residency

Received grant from The Thendara Family Foundation in support of Etruscan Outreach Program

In partnership with Hampton University, Etruscan facilitated an outreach internship project completed during the Fall 2020

Jason Miller won the 2020 Etruscan Prize

Etruscan joined Wilkes University’s Maslow Family Graduate Program in Creative Writing at AWP20 in San Antonio where four Etruscan authors hosted book signings; Etruscan co-sponsored the annual Old School Slam and Open Mic

Etruscan authors H. L. Hix and D.M. Spitzer attended the 2019 annual conference of the American Literary Translators Association and participated in the panel, “On Non-translation and Translation.”

Left to right: 2020 Etruscan Prize winner Jason Miller, Grad Assistant Fran Reilly, author Sheryl St. Germain, author Tim Seibles, Managing Editor Bill Schneider, Executive Editor Robert Mooney, Production Editor Pamela Turchin, and Executive Director Phil Brady.
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“I hear America singing, her varied carols I hear.”
—Walt Whitman

Nothing attested, everything sung, writes Etruscan poet H. L. Hix, echoing Walt. Since our first release, September 11, 2001: American Writers Respond, Etruscan writers have sung a resonant chorus of poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction, and literary criticism.

People have taken notice. Three of our 98 titles have been finalists for the National Book Award. Etruscan books have won honors from the Poetry Society of America and Foreword Reviews. We’ve been in Best American Poetry and on Garrison Keillor’s show. We’ve partnered with the National Endowment for the Arts, Wilkes University, and Youngstown State University. Our outreach program brings new literature to thousands of at-risk students.

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