

# SALEM PRESS

Published & Distributed by Grey House Publishing

## **For Immediate Release**

January 21, 2020

Contact: Jessica Moody, VP Marketing  
(800) 562-2139 x101  
[jmoody@greyhouse.com](mailto:jmoody@greyhouse.com)

## **Salem Press Announces A New Addition to the *Critical Survey of Poetry Series:* *Contemporary Poets***

*Contemporary Poets* is a supplement to Salem Press' 14-volume *Critical Survey of Poetry* series and covers poets who have written from the 1960s through the present day. Like the other volumes in the series, *Contemporary Poets* presents profiles of major poets with sections on the poet's biography and an analysis of the poet's most important poems or collections. Also included is a comprehensive list of the poet's major works. Although the profiled authors may have written in other genres as well, sometimes to great acclaim, the focus of this set is on their most important works of poetry.

The landscape of contemporary poetry is potentially more varied, and its practitioners more diverse, than at any other period in the history of the genre. An effective but by no means complete survey of this variety can be had by pointing to a number of developments that took place in the last decades of the twentieth century and the first decades of the twenty-first. First, American poetry began to explore a number of alternative approaches to the "confessional" style that had been popular from the 1960s onward. Second, writing and publishing poetry became increasingly professionalized through the emergence of creative writing programs at hundreds of universities. Third, under the influence of the Language poets and of the early New York poets, poetry became more ironic, disjunctive, and pop-cultural than ever before. And fourth, contemporary poetry has become significantly more diverse in terms of race, gender, and ethnicity than at any point in the past, and, in conjunction with this shift, there is a heightened engagement with global political realities.

These volumes, like most others in the *Critical Survey of Poetry* series, profile 200 poets, arranged alphabetically. The 2-volume reference work consists of essays on poetry movement and themes, a glossary, timeline, awards, selected poems, and a subject index. Poet profiles vary in length, with many well over 1,000 words. The 21 essays on poetry schools and movements discuss specific modern and contemporary poetic movements, including Oulipo, Language Poetry, and Net-Poetry. These essays are roughly 3,000 words in length and offer in-depth analysis of the movement's history as well as close readings of key texts.

Supplemental material in Volume 2 provides tools for further research and points of access to the wealth of information, including:

- **Thematic Essays** discussing specific themes common to poetry throughout the history of its genre, including The Body, Gender and Social Identity, and Memory.
- **A Guide to Writing About Poetry** for students who are new to writing about the genre.
- **Glossary of Literary Terms** relevant to the study of poetry and literature in general
- **Timeline of Contemporary Poetry** listing major milestones and events in contemporary poetry and literature arranged in chronological order
- **Major Poetry Awards** listing winners of the most significant awards commemorating contemporary poets
- **Selected Poems** from 10 of the poets profiled in the set
- **Subject Index** offering readers numerous entry points into the two volumes

Some of the poets discussed in these volumes include critically-acclaimed poets who have been recognized with major awards, including the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry, the National Book Award for Poetry, and the Ruth Lilly Prize:

- Forrest Gander (Pulitzer, 2019)
- Tyehimba Jess (Pulitzer, 2017)
- David Ferry (National Book Award, 2012; Ruth Lilly Prize, 2011)
- Justin Phillip Reed (National Book Award, 2018)
- Peter Balakian (Pulitzer Prize, 2016)
- Daniel Borzutzky (National Book Award, 2016)
- Ed Roberson (Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize, 2016)
- Robin Coste Lewis (National Book Award, 2015)
- Mary Szybist (National Book Award, 2013)
- Terrance Hayes (National Book Award, 2010)
- Vijay Seshadri (Pulitzer, 2014)

Designed for high school students and undergraduates, these easy-to-understand analytical essays provide new and interesting ways that the work of these influential, contemporary poets can be discussed and appreciated.

### **Free Online with Print Purchase**

*Critical Survey of Poetry: Contemporary Poets* is available at no additional cost to buyers of the print volume online through Salem's online platform, Salem Literature. A single purchase of the printed version is all it takes to gain access to this important title online.

---

*Critical Survey of Poetry: Contemporary Poets*

Hardcover ISBN: 978-1-64265-279-6      900 pages      \$295

Ebook ISBN: 978-1-64265-280-2

Publisher: Salem Press