

2022 Broadside Series



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Marjorie Maddox/Anna Lee Hafer

High Top

A collaboration



Poetry: All forms & styles

Marjorie Maddox

High Top

See-saw balance between ground
and muted sky, we ride imagination
to life, the one without vacant chairs,
chessboard absent of the pieces
we forgot to move
or bring
or pick up from the jagged noise
nine lives below
the paint-pitched roof,
the wind-swept air,
the sinking sun peering in
at other empty tables,
empty chairs.

What you are saying is
the compass-needle pole
that keeps us whole
and here,
such precarious stability
on this platform island of two
minus two.

Are we still *we*
in this unseen grief
that keeps trying
to listen to soul
and scream?

High atop the made-up,
knee-deep in nostalgia,
and miles above any
scientifically proven memories,
you initiate contact:
King's Pawn Opening.

I can almost see your breath;
you can almost touch my words—
here, high up in the beyond
waiting for the world's
next moves.



High Top by Anna Lee Hafer

About the writer:

Professor of English at Lock Haven University, **Marjorie Maddox** has published 13 collections of poetry—including *Begin with a Question* (Paraclete 2022), and the ekphrastic collaboration with Karen Elias *Heart Speaks, Is Spoken For* (Shanti Arts 2022)—the story collection *What She Was Saying* (Fomite), four children's/YA books. *In the Museum of My Daughter's Mind*, based on her daughter's paintings, is forthcoming in 2023 (Shanti Arts).

About the artist:

Anna Lee Hafer is a studio artist based in the Philadelphia area who graduated from Roberts Wesleyan College in Rochester, NY. Previous experience includes studio exhibitions at Davison art gallery and Rochester contemporary art center in Rochester, NY, as well as published or forthcoming work in *Still Point Arts Quarterly*, *The MacGuffin*, *The Penn Review*, and *The Ekphrastic Review*

Image:

High Top by Anna Lee Hafer (contemporary). Acrylic/tempera paint, marker on stretched canvas. 36 x 24 inches. 2021. By permission.

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