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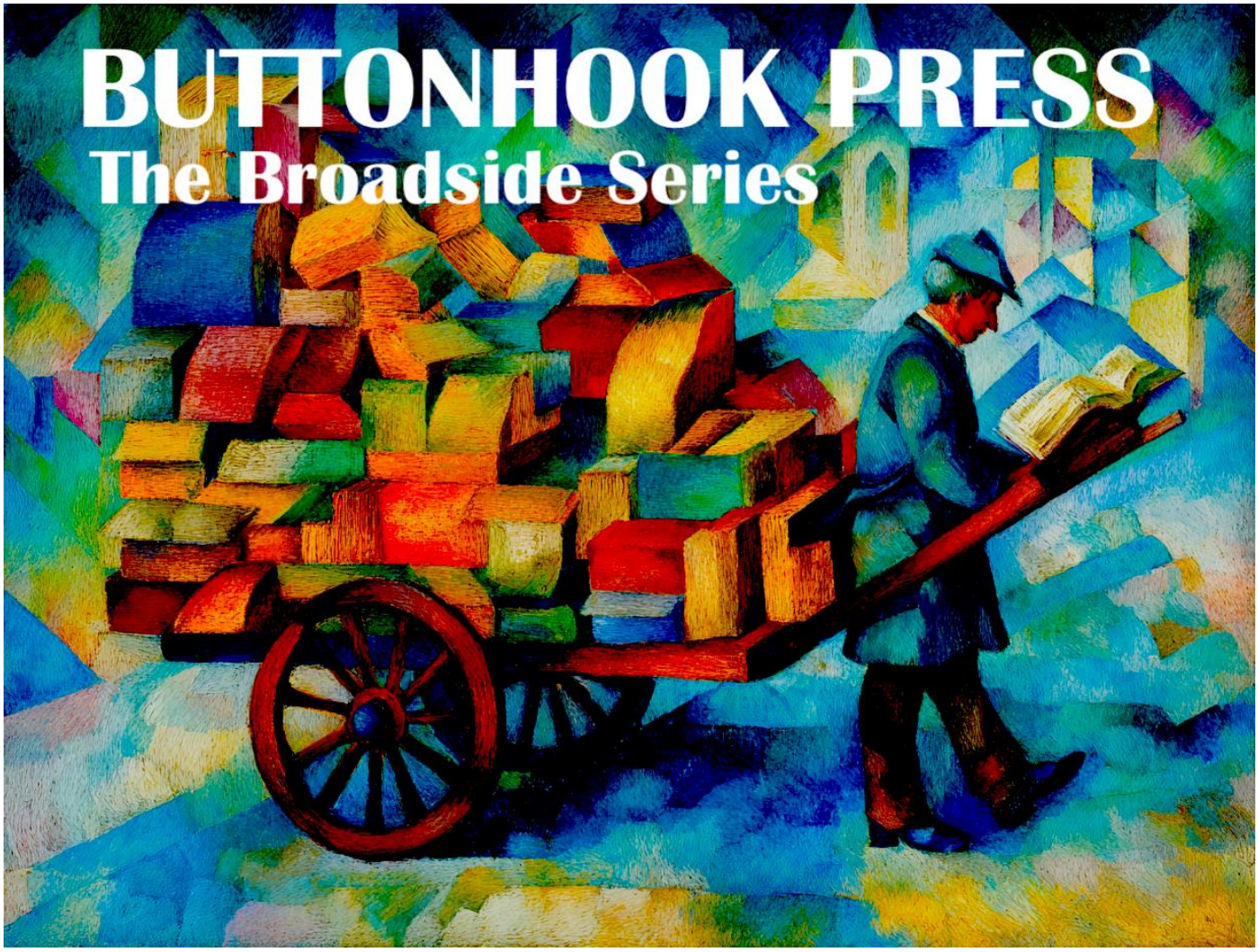

2026 BROADSIDE SERIES

THE DUEL

The cornfield sleeps.

The wind
begins to creep
its way through rays
of new sun.

A cornstalk yawns.

Sporting swords
of emerald lightning,
the stalk gently fences
a dew-freshed dawn.

A raven caws
and cracks the quiet
with sharded song.

(Note: "The Duel" was accepted for publication by *The Texas Quarterly* in 1977. *The Texas Quarterly*, however, ceased publication in 1978 before the poem appeared in print.)

LARRY D. THOMAS

2026 O:JA&L BROADSIDE SERIES

LARRY D. THOMAS

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An imprint of *OPEN: Journal of Arts & Letters* (O:JA&L)

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Publishing since 2017 as *OPEN: Journal of Arts & Letters* (O:JA&L) and its imprints Buttonhook Press, HOT BUTTON PRESS *Contemporary Issues*, HIGH BUTTON PRESS *Contemporary Art*, FIREFIGHT PRESS *Trench Arts & Letters*, DALLY POST PRESS *Cowboy Poetry*, and HAL: *Heuristic Analysis Library*, OAI supports writers and artists worldwide.

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This project was made possible, in part, through support from **Grayling and Wraith**, a growth marketing company.

About the writer:

LARRY D. THOMAS is an American poet whose work is deeply rooted in the landscapes and histories of the American West and Southwest. Born in Texas, he served for decades in social service and adult criminal justice before devoting himself full-time to poetry. He is the author of numerous poetry collections, beginning with *The Lighthouse Keeper* (Timberline Press), a letterpress edition that sold out quickly. Appointed Texas Poet Laureate in 2008 by the Texas Legislature, Thomas is also a member of the Texas Institute of Letters. His poetry has earned multiple major literary awards and appears widely in national journals.

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