
THE O:JA&L 2024 ARTIST SERIES

An Artist's Portfolio

rites of calibration

Images & Excerpts



REX WILDER

HIGH BUTTON PRESS

Contemporary Art

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rites of calibration

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rex wilder

REX WILDER



HIGH BUTTON PRESS: *Contemporary Art*

Even resting in bed, watching the trees,
our lighter breathing, our limb-shifting, sheet-
rustling, even our dreaming had fight.

— *Rex Wilder, Séverine in Summer School*

REX WILDER



HIGH BUTTON PRESS: *Contemporary Art*

God,
I'm blind with happiness.
No wonder I can't let go.

— *Outskirts, Rex Wilder*



I know that the past was great
and the future will be great,
And I know that both curiously
conjoint in the present time...

— *Birds of Passage, Walt Whitman*



Hours, gone — come! I have spent my life
trying to reattach cut flowers.

— *Hours*, Rex Wilder

REX WILDER



HIGH BUTTTON PRESS: *Contemporary Art*

An uncaught bird is ever hovering, hovering,
High in the purer, happier air.

— *Birds of Passage, Walt Whitman*



All, all for immortality,
Love like the light silently
wrapping all,

— *Birds of Passage, Walt Whitman*



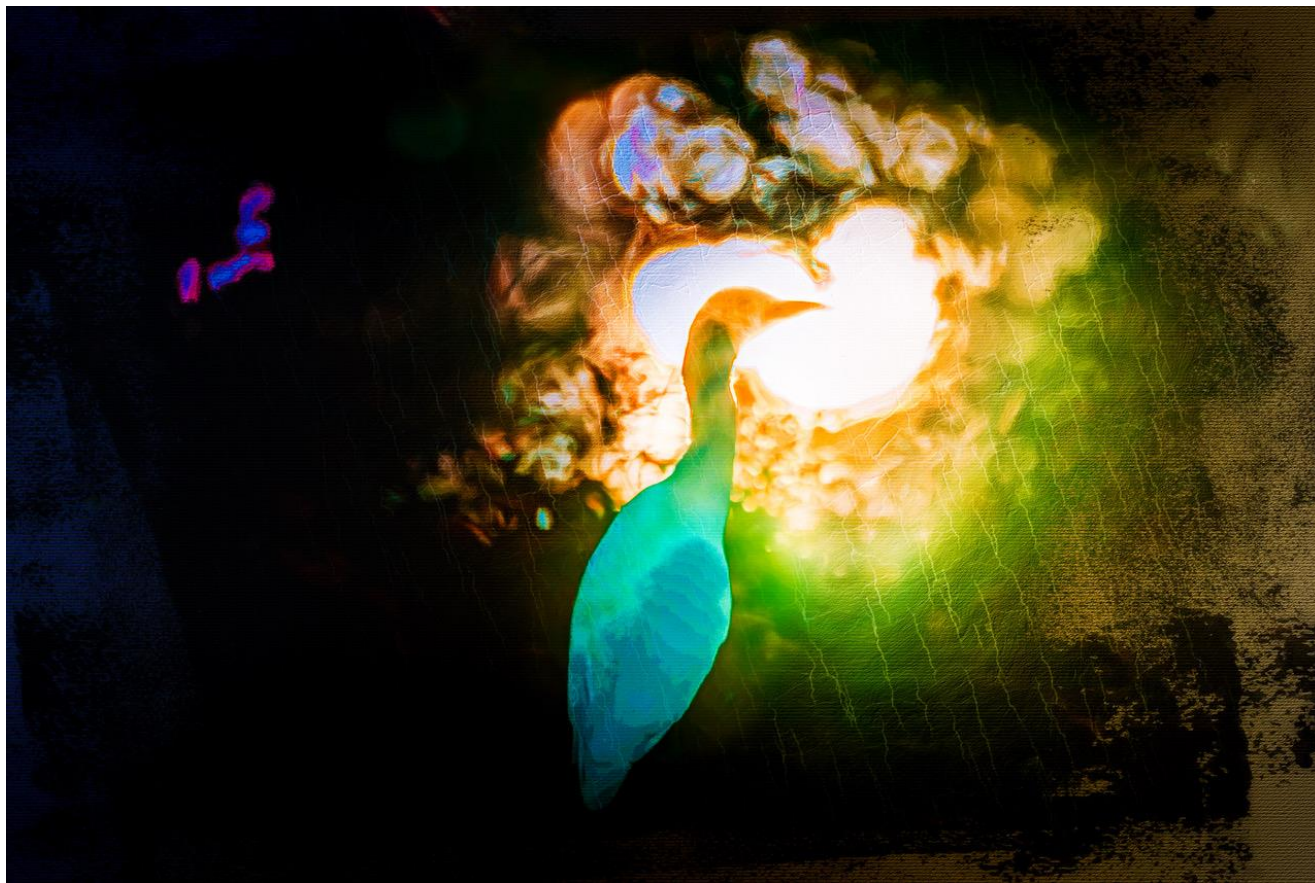
What happened then? Perhaps a quiet, telling rite
of calibration, beauty refining its grasp
on me. I stepped out of my country into the world.

— *Séverine and her Trophy Flower, Rex Wilder*



Reminiscence is what the nest
sounds like to the migrating bird.

— *Snows of No Country*, Rex Wilder



None but has found you imperfect,
I only find no imperfection in you,

— *Birds of Passage, Walt Whitman*



And as they glide past
in slow motion
high speed, their long necks migrate
hours into the future...

— *Outpost*, Rex Wilder

Perched here, she clings
to me as if I were a branch on the tree
of forever and says things
like “Don’t go” and “Stay inside me.”

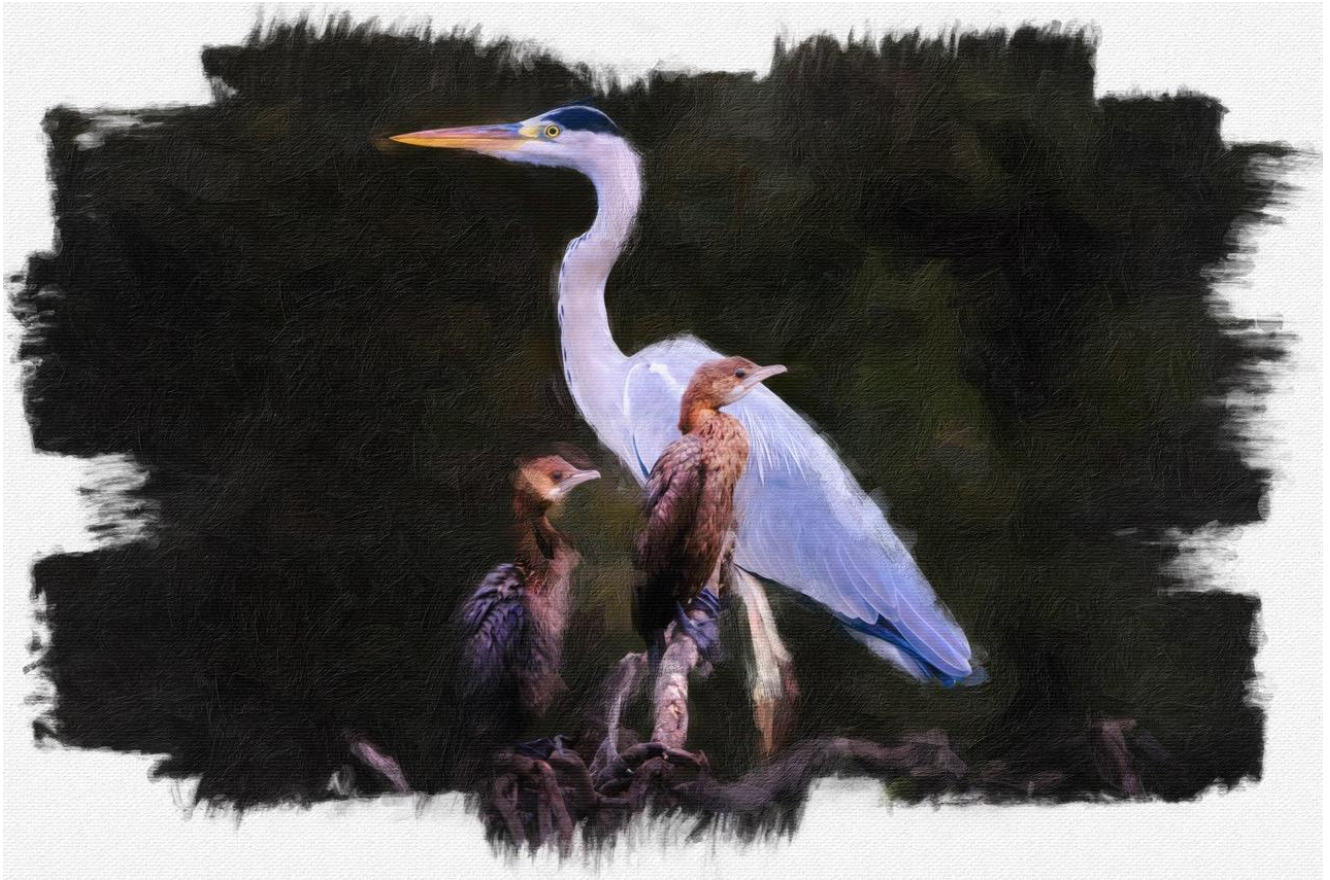
— *Romeo of Séverine*, Rex Wilder





Allow me all or nothing,
allow me to surpass love,
Allow me.

— *Outpost*, Rex Wilder



A backward Proust,
I bask in forgetting my life before today.

— *Holiday Special*, Rex Wilder

ABOUT THE WRITER:

REX WILDER is an award-winning poet and photographer. He is the author of four previously published books of poetry. His poetry collection, [*Open Late: New & Collected Poems \(1979-2018\)*](#), was published by Chatwin in 2018 and his latest book, [*A Quiet Place to Land*](#) was published by Chatwin in November, 2023.

Wilder's poetry has appeared in leading magazines such as *Poetry*, *The New Republic*, *National Review*, and the *Yale, Harvard, Antioch, Georgia, and Poetry Ireland* reviews. His poems have been featured over the decades in London's *Times Literary Supplement*. A former regional director of the Poetry Society of America in L.A., Wilder helped establish Hollywood's popular "Act of the Poet" reading series.

The two-term U.S. Poet Laureate Billy Collins said this of Rex's first book, *Waking Bodies*:

In Rex Wilder's poetry, the tired English of everyday use comes back to us refreshed and full of its original surprise. In a world glutted with poetry, that Wilder has found a new way to say the old things is a notable achievement.

Inspired by early 20th century Pictorialists, Rex practices digital overpainting and written reflection to interpret his photography. This approach allows him to reimagine a moment—highlighting the soul and beauty of the image and fixing the glimmer of a moment in memory. He resides in Benedict Canyon, California.

A QUIET PLACE TO LAND

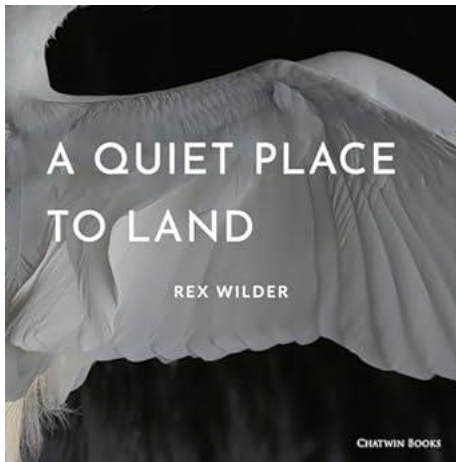
Recently released from the hospital that treated him through two mental collapses, critically acclaimed poet Rex Wilder began going for daily walks around his home in Venice, California, as a means to quiet his deafening mind.

While on these walks, he found moments of solace whenever he paused to watch the birds. Overwhelmed by the urge to capture the birds' beauty through art, Rex plunged into the world of Pictorialism; the process by which he used his own photography as a canvas to paint, carefully adding digital colors, layers and textures that would highlight the true beauty of a moment.

The process of digital overpainting proved to be a therapeutic breakthrough. Rex learned how to apply this same method of "overpainting" much more broadly.

If a situation in life felt unsatisfactory, he closed his eyes and tried to highlight different attributes, carefully reframing and coloring so that he could see the situation in the most beautiful way possible.

A Quiet Place to Land pairs Rex Wilder's pictorial art with lyrical, earnest reflections: "These are the thoughts and moments that carried me through a transitory time in my life. I hope they help carry you, too. Even if just for one, beautiful moment."



A Quiet Place to Land
Softcover \$35.00

Limited Edition Hardcover, \$125.00.

We are pleased to share that the Limited-Edition Hardcover copies of *A Quiet Place to Land* will include an original, signed print from Rex Wilder.

Now available for from www.ChatwinBooks.com

Reactions to Rex Wilder's *A Quiet Place to Land*

"*A Quiet Place to Land* is a stunning mix of soothing words and compelling images which offers readers a portal into the world of emotional safety, empathy, exquisite natural beauty, imagination, and a merciful release from our woes. Rex Wilder's book is a poetic and visually heart-opening book that shows his path towards emotional balance as he was healed by walking through the iconic Venice Beach canals, with its wondrous world of egrets, row boats, and the changing moods of weather and light on water. Highly recommend this book. It is a balm for the soul."

—**Judith Orloff, MD** *NY Times* bestselling author of *The Empath's Survival Guide*.

"Rex Wilder has given us a remarkable and creative gift of images and poetry in *A Quiet Place to Land*... this book reminds us that when we slow down, there is beauty to be taken in all around us."

—**Ken Duckworth, MD, Chief Medical Officer, National Alliance on Mental Illness.**'

Hey there, fellow bookworms! If you're looking for a dose of beauty and serenity in your life, then *A Quiet Place to Land* by Rex Wilder is your golden ticket. This book is like a tranquil escape, with breathtaking photographs that will transport you to a world of joy and connection. The author's digital brushstrokes are like magic, turning everyday moments into art that tugs at your heartstrings. It's a reminder that even in our busy lives, we can find solace in the beauty around us. So, why should you read this book? Well, it's a visual and emotional journey that'll make you pause, breathe, and appreciate the little things in life. Trust me, you don't want to miss out on this slice of tranquility!

—**Sue, Goodreads**

A captivating blend of stunning photographs and heartfelt reflections. In this collection, Rex Wilder takes inspiration from early 20th-century Pictorialists and skillfully transforms his images into mesmerizing works of art. The combination of evocative photography and lyrical prose creates a sense of serenity and connection that resonates with readers. Rex's ability to capture moments of joy, beauty, and safety in his digital canvases is truly remarkable.

—**Abigail, Goodreads**

Dive into the pages of *A Quiet Place to Land* by Rex Wilder, where every page is a brushstroke painting a picture of beauty, resiliency, and self-discovery.

—**Maple Counseling Center for Mental Health**

For complete information on the art of REX WILDER, visit his website at <https://wilder.com/about-rex-wilder>

O:JA&L'S BUTTONHOOK PRESS CHAPBOOK SERIES

2020

O:JA&L Pushcart Prize Nominees: 2018

O:JA&L Pushcart Prize Nominees: 2019

Something Else About Mary (Exclusive subscriber content)
(from WIP NOT FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL)

Flash Fiction by Kent Dixon

Flash Fiction: A Primer

A writer's resource by Associate Editor Pamelyn Casto

Poetry: Three Essays on Craft

by O:JA&L Featured Writers

Ray-the Roo

Experimental Discourse by Associate Editor WJP Newnham

Horse: 4 Frames

Haibun by Associate Editor Jeff Streeby

2021

Just Willie Please: Eight Flash Fiction Tales

A flash fiction sequence by Don Robishaw

The Imp of the Perverse: Edgar Allan Poe's Misplaces Youth

An essay from a longer academic WIP by Anne Whitehouse

The First Annual O:JA&L Prize for Flash Discourse

Selected and with an Introduction by Associate Editor Pamelyn Casto

The 10 Best Flash Narratives 2017-2021

Here Comes Herodotus, Again!

Flash Discourse by Wayne Cresser

Where the Thin Winds Worry

Flash Discourse by Carolyn Mikulencak

(No longer available)

2022

Funny You Should Ask

Prose Poetry by Brad Rose

Hunger Pains

Flash Discourse by Mark Blickley

Comedy Hour

Poetry by Bruce Robinson

Delta Notes

Haiku by Jianqing Zheng

Scaring Crow

Haiku by Adjei Agyei-Baah

Dust and Rust

Haibun by Taofeek Ayeyemi

A Sweater for the Tayfel

Irish/English Haiku by Gabriel Rosenstock celebrating the art of Issachar Ber Ryback

Zen and the Art of House Painting

New and selected flash fiction by Wayne Scheer

The Selborne Haibun

Irish/English Haibun by Gabriel Rosenstock, featuring passages from THE NATURAL HISTORY OF SELBORNE by Gilbert White (1720-1793)

2023

School Songs

Haiku & Senryu by Hassane Zemmouri

Being Ruth Aswawa

Poetry by Anne Whitehouse

Soldier, Sailor: Edgar Allen Poe and His Brother Henry

Academic Nonfiction by Anne Whitehouse

Tales of the Kite

Haiku by Adjei Agyei-Baah

How the Mayfly Got Its Megaphone

Prose poetry by Hekkei Huotari

Jackhammer Poems

Poetry by Ben Jacques

Six Coffees with a Madman

Experimental Fiction by Blossom Hibbert

Drops of Water

Haiku by Yuko Otomo

Irish translation by Gabriel Rosenstock

Scots translation by John McDonald

Just Looking

Haiku Sequences on the Mississippi Delta region by Jianqing Zheng

Qualm (Before a Storm)

Poetry by Bruce Robinson

Eye of the Fish

Haiga (or EKPHRASTIC HAIKU) with photography by Debiprasad Mukherjee
and with Haiku in English and Irish by Gabriel Rosenstock

Experimental Storytelling: A Timeline of Complementary Realities

Experimental Discourse by Jim Meirose with an essay
and with an interview by O:JA&L Associate Editor Warwick Newnham

2024

ORDINARY LIFE

Haiku by Hassane Zemmouri

TITLE PENDING

Haiga by Hassane Zemmouri (Haiku) and Magali Bretou (Photography)

MORE TITLES IN-PRESS FOR 2024

O:JA&L'S HOT BUTTON PRESS SERIALS

2023

The Deplorable:

Installment 1

Installment 2

Installment 3

Installment 4

Fiction by Contributing Editor Mick McGrath

MORE TITLES IN-PRESS FOR 2024

O:JA&L'S BUTTONHOOK PRESS MASTERS SERIES

The Buttonhook Press Masters Series: Brian Clements on Prose Poetry

With an Interview by Associate Editor Pamelyn Casto

The Buttonhook Press Masters Series: Mark Budman on Flash Discourse

With an Interview by Associate Editor Pamelyn Casto

The Buttonhook Press Masters Series: Ray Gonzalez on Prose Poetry

With an Interview by Associate Editor Pamelyn Casto

The Buttonhook Press Master Series: Michael Martone on Flash Fiction

With an Interview by Associate Editor Pamelyn Casto

The Buttonhook Press Master Series: Roberta Allen on Flash Fiction

With an Interview by Associate Editor Pamelyn Casto

The Buttonhook Press Master Series: Peter Conners on Flash Fiction

With an Interview by Associate Editor Pamelyn Casto

MORE TITLES IN PRESS FOR 2024

O:JA&L'S HIGH BUTTON PRESS ART CHAPBOOKS

2024

RITE OF CALIBRATION: Excerpts & Images
Photography by Rex Wilder

TANGENT & INTERPLAY
Special Processes by Catherine Eaton Skinner

ESSENCE & ATMOSPHERE
Paintings by Kathleen Frank

LAYERING LIGHT
Paintings by Bette Ridgeway

BY LAND & BY SEA: *Awakening the Sensual*
Sculpture by Mark Yale Harris

NEW MEXICO *Deconstructed*
Photography by Natalie Christensen

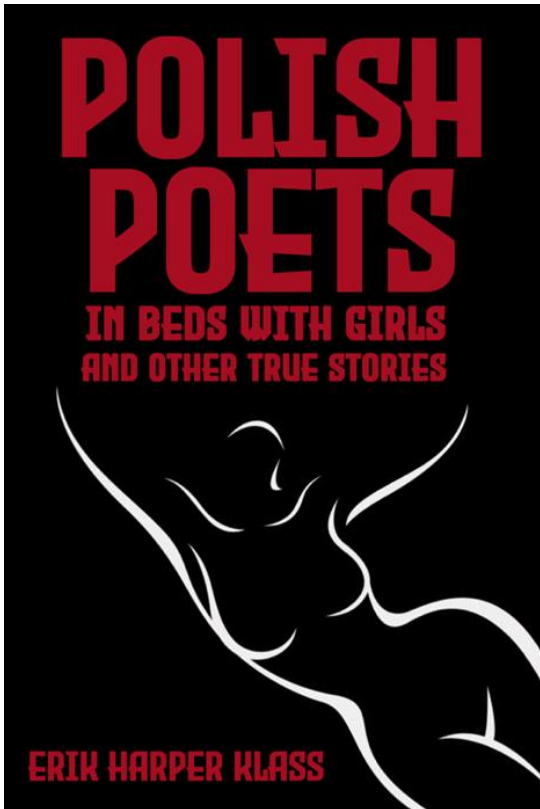
MORE TITLES IN PRESS

OPEN: Journal of Arts & Letters
EXPERIENCE/REFLECT/CELEBRATE



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NEW FROM O:JA&L'S BUTTONHOOK PRESS



POLISH POETS IN BEDS WITH GIRLS

And Other True Stories

A Novella of the Interwar Years 1919-1939

ERIK HARPER KLAS

Polish Poets in Beds with Girls exhibits a fascinating and artful mix of history, fiction, nonfiction, poetry, footnotes, the semifictional (and autofictional) lives of Erik Harper Klass and his lover Rachel, and snippets about the actual lives of eight renowned Polish poets and their lovers. The force that holds this mighty mix together is the work of poet Vladimir Mayakovsky. Klass's book will awaken readers to the strangeness of literature and history, and to the strangeness of life and love.

PAMELYN CASTO

Author of *Flash Fiction: Alive in the Flicker (A Portable Workshop)*.

Klass offers a dense, thoroughly researched story laden with symbolism, which seems, above all, to be saying this: art *exists*. This work *is*. Art stands (sometimes literally) above what changes and what doesn't, outlives giants, and imbues repetitive, sometimes hopeless lives with color. For anybody who finds that meaning important, *Polish Poets* is a work worth taking in. . . . [It is] a multi-layered, provocative, and well-told story about art for art's sake, language for language's sake, and meaning-making itself.

RACHEL CUSTER

NEA Fellow (2019) and the author of *Flatback Sally Country*

We listen with sympathy and fascination to this series of intimate colloquies that Klass has created in his captivating narrative on several notable Polish poets of the interwar years (1919–1938). Feelings matter here—the relationships between the lovers. The expansive descriptions of tiny things matter here. The internal monologues of the individual poets matter here—their musings on the condition of the world around them. But it is the blending of all these things in Klass's precise proportions that matters most. His many thoughtfully nuanced ingredients in this literary recipe are the result of exhaustive research, and his efforts provide his readers with the ultimate experience of the vibrant Polish poetic community of the first half of the twentieth century.

VERA FALENKO

2017 graduate of the Moscow Aviation Institute and contributing editor and translator at *Open: Journal of Arts & Letters*

BUTTONHOOK PRESS TITLES ON AMAZON

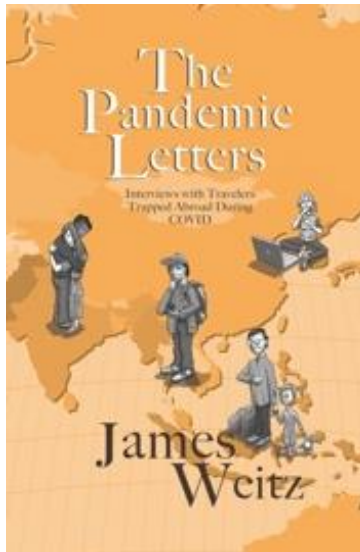


Pamelyn Casto

Flash Fiction:

Alive in the Flicker A Portable Workshop

Click on the title to visit the O:JA&L Amazon page.



James Weitz

The Pandemic Letters:

Interviews with Travelers

Trapped Abroad During COVID

Click on the title to visit the O:JA&L Amazon page.

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\$7 (USA)

\$10 (CANADA)