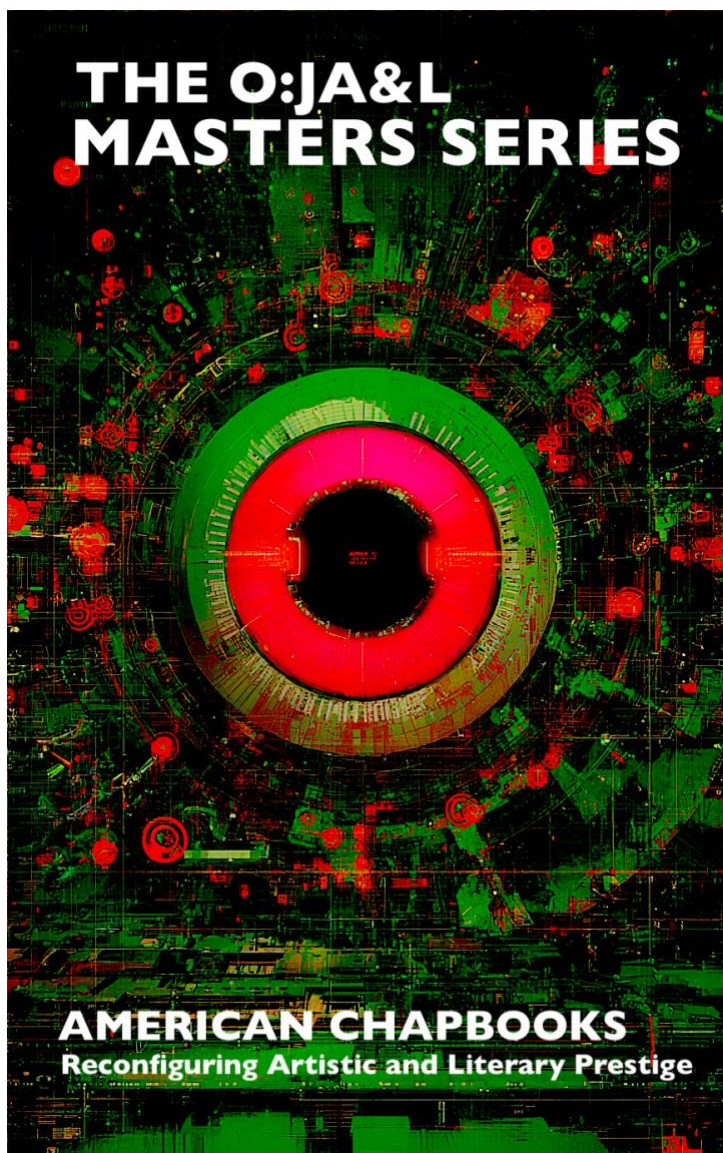

Issues of Contemporary Aesthetics
PAMPHLET SERIES



HAL: Heuristic Algorithmic Library
An Imprint of OJAL Art Incorporated

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O:JA&L's BUTTONHOOK PRESS MASTERS SERIES: POETS & WRITERS

The Masters Series from *OPEN: Journal of Arts & Letters* (O:JA&L) is a curated initiative that foregrounds significant contributors to contemporary literature and the arts. Published by Buttonhook Press, the series employs a multi-modal approach—featuring creative portfolios, craft essays, and interviews—to interrogate the evolving landscape of short-form and experimental writing.

GENRE FOCUS AND THEORETICAL ENGAGEMENT

The series prioritizes flash fiction, prose poetry, and experimental discourse, with featured authors such as Pedro Ponce, Kent Dixon, Peter Connors, and Tom Hazuka. Theoretical essays probe the mechanics of brevity, the necessity for individualized structure in short forms, and the concept of defamiliarization (cf. Viktor Shklovsky), which challenges normative reader perceptions through innovative formats and myth subversion.

CRAFT, PROCESS, AND EXPERIMENTAL METHODOLOGIES

The flash fiction, prose poetry component of the series, curated by Associate Editor Pamelyn Casto, advances the notion of "craft as action," positing creative practice as an active, ritualized engagement with the world. Essays by Roberta Allen and Pamelyn Casto highlight the interplay between spontaneity, revision, and formal constraint, including explorations of the abecedarian poetic form.

Experimental discourse, curated by Associate Editor Warwick Newnham, is defined by its non-escapist ideology: works are designed to unsettle, disrupt conventional rhetoric, and foreground subjective association over logical progression. The series features writers such as Jim Meirose and Kent Dixon, whose texts serve as sites for structural and linguistic innovation.

STRUCTURAL FORMATS AND MULTIMEDIA INTEGRATION

The Masters Series encompasses experimental nonfiction, flash discourse, and multimedia works (including audio/video drama and AI-assisted imagery), thereby expanding the boundaries of literary production and reader engagement.

ACCESSIBILITY AND IMPACT

O:JA&L is noted for its responsiveness and inclusiveness. Buttonhook Press publishes and disseminates free chapbooks across the Masters, Chapbook, and Americana Series, facilitating broad scholarly access to contemporary literary innovation.

O:JA&L's HIGH BUTTON PRESS MASTERS SERIES: STUDIO ARTISTS

The High Button Press artist series, featured within the Masters Series of the *O:JA&L* (Open: Journal of Arts & Letters), has garnered significant recognition for its rigorous curation and the intellectual depth of its featured artists. Critical reviews and scholarly articles consistently commend the series for its capacity to present multi-layered and provocative works of art and literature, positioning it as a notable contribution to contemporary artistic discourse.

CURATORIAL PHILOSOPHY AND RECEPTION

Central to the series is an emphasis on meaning-making, with both visual and literary works selected for their ability to transcend temporal and cultural boundaries. The curatorial approach is characterized by a deliberate dialogue between contemporary and classical art forms, inviting audiences to reconsider the aesthetic potential of everyday urban objects. This methodology challenges conventional perceptions of beauty and encourages a reflective

engagement with the materiality of the urban environment.

PRESENTATION AND SCHOLARLY ENGAGEMENT

Rather than functioning as a mere repository of images, the series distinguishes itself through the inclusion of artist interviews, essays on craft, and detailed analyses. These supplementary materials provide essential context, facilitating a deeper understanding of the creative process and the conceptual underpinnings of the featured works. Such an approach aligns with academic standards for critical engagement and enriches the reader's interpretive experience.

CASE STUDIES OF FEATURED ARTISTS

Several artists within the series have received particular acclaim for their innovative contributions:

- Bette Ridgeway's "Layered Light" is noted for its sophisticated layering techniques using transparent colors and the integration of aluminum sculpture, which reviewers describe as visually striking and technically advanced.
- Rex Wilder's "Rites of Calibration" is characterized as a tranquil and captivating synthesis of photography and reflective prose, employing digital brushstrokes to elevate quotidian moments into artistic expressions.
- Alejandro Rosenberg's contemporary still life practice is commended for its reimaging of classical genres through the use of disposable, everyday objects, thereby prompting viewers to identify beauty within the mundane.

CONCLUSION

In summary, the High Button Press artist series is esteemed for its intellectual rigor and its commitment to fostering meaningful engagement with contemporary art and literature. The series offers a well-curated and profound experience, contributing to ongoing scholarly conversations in the fields of art criticism and literary studies.

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 Connors on Flash Fiction
With an Interview by Associate Editor Pamelyn Casto

The Buttonhook Press Masters Series: Maxine Chernoff on Prose Poetry
With an Interview by Associate Editor Pamelyn Casto

The Buttonhook Press Masters Series: Pedro Ponce on Flash Fiction
With an Interview by Associate Editor Pamelyn Casto

The Buttonhook Press Masters Series: Tom Hazuka on Flash Fiction
With an Interview by Associate Editor Pamelyn Casto

The Buttonhook Press Masters Series: Kent Dixon on Flash Fiction &
Nonfiction
With an Interview by Associate Editor Pamelyn Casto



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

rites of calibration: Images & Excerpts

Fine Art Photography by Rex Wilder

new Mexico Deconstructed

Fine Art Photography by Natalie Christensen

imperfect vessel

Painting and drawing by Anne-Marie Brown

by land and by sea: Awakening the Sensual

Sculpture and Installation by Mark Yale Harris

layered light

Painting and drawing by Bette Ridgeway

essence & atmosphere

Painting and drawing by Kathleen Frank

tangent & interplay

Painting and drawing by Catherine Eaton Skinner

[Implications of Energy](#)

Artist portfolio of Dr. Ernest Williams III

OPEN: Journal of Arts & Letters



HIGH BUTTON PRESS
Contemporary Art