

BAMBOO DART PRESS SLETTER

112 HARVARD AVE #65 CLAREMONT, CA 91711 USA 2021-03-18 WWW.BAMBOODARTPRESS.COM

Welcome to the fourth edition of the Bamboo Dart Press Newsletter.

In this edition we're spending a little time with Romaine Washington. We've also got some new information, some announcements, and other chapbook-relevant rejoicement. Join us, won't you?



BAMBOO DART PRESS reinvents the Chapbook with PELEKINESIS.

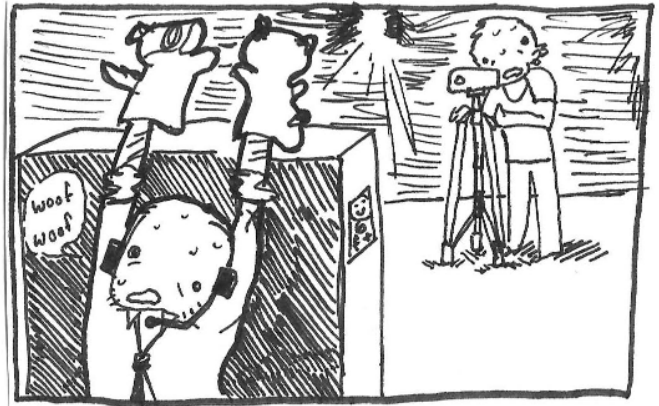
“These prose chapbooks by BAMBOO DART PRESS may be a 2021 version of “street literature”. Attractive to hold in your hand, around 45 pages, they offer a meaningful, even inspiring read. But can these books be long enough to deliver that experience? In these disconnected days of isolation, I enjoyed the humor and wonder in these books.”

Susan I. Weinstein, *Not Another Book Review*

<https://notanotherbookreview.blogspot.com/2021/02/bamboo-dart-press-reinvents-chapbook-in.html>

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDU COMIX

by Matthew Riley



What people are saying about Romaine Washington's *Purgatory Has an Address*

Mother. Daughter. Daddy. Child. Each one of these poems explores the topography of family history and family pain with a sense of ferocity that eats the reader alive. The sun glares without warmth and black boxes drift through desert landscapes as Washington tears through the emotional terrain of violence intermixed with tenderness and longing. Reading these poems, you will understand why “penance is a slow process” and how we live with the hurt of what was done to us in the unrelenting terrible beauty of this book of poems.

—Nikia Chaney, poet, Literary Laureate, and author of *us mouth*

Purgatory Has An Address by Romaine Washington is a poetry collection abundant with magic, manifestation, and mediation despite these bleakest of times. “I am writing from inside a burning building,” she proclaims across the page, where trauma can make time spin: “tomorrow she is telling me it feels good to be quarantined.” And yet, with guidance from ancestors, “with nana there is always time,” she grounds herself and the reader in moments of much needed peace. From fires, chaos, and grief, Washington creates herself new: “and she was poem / and she was good.” Let this collection be a reminder to anyone who needs it, that they, too, are a poem. “ashé ashé amen amen awoman awoman.”

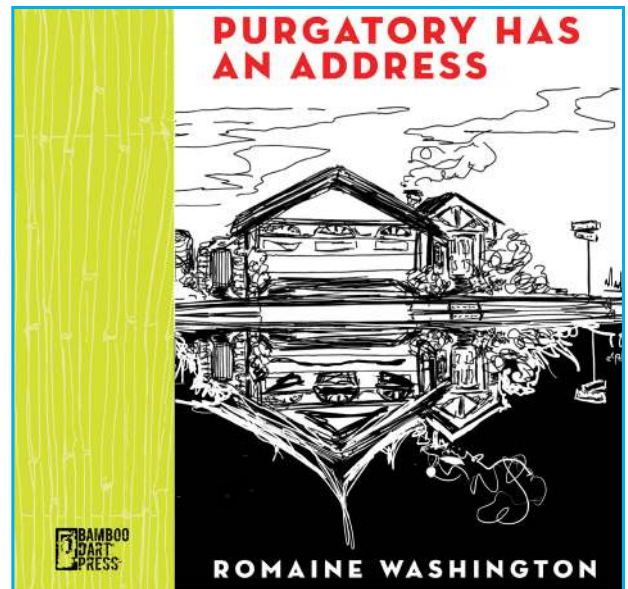
—Xochitl-Julisa Bermejo, author of *Posada: Offerings of Witness and Refuge*

Purgatory Has An Address is an ode to the poetry of place and how this poetry weaves itself into the heart of the people who are both inhabitants and the place itself. Centered in the poetry of place is the way that one can simultaneously create, be created and perish with the utterance of a single word. Throughout Romaine Washington’s beautiful chapbook is the tension between becoming and unbecoming in the homes and hands of those around the speakers. To create the self becomes a soft balance between what is known about the past, what is unknown and the power to piece together our own stories, “the girl came down / with wadded balls / of poetry in both eyes.” Because of Washington’s incredible use of language, images and surprise, by the end, it is as if there is no way to exist without poetry at all.

—Allyson Jeffredo, author of *Songs After Memory Fractures*

Romaine Washington’s poems in *Purgatory Has an Address* smolder with unpretty claws and an emptiness that seeks belonging. There’s magic for your senses and music in her words – “the skin weeps when it is badly burned.” She is nameless at birth like a tumbleweed apart from her roots. “You gave me away” infiltrates the book like the red-line on a map where she grows up. Romaine conjures a world where, “i thrive on brittle bites.” Later, she lives in a place where her son is called vagrant in the hot tub. He knows the drill. These poems grab you by the throat with just enough room to breathe as they spill out the door.

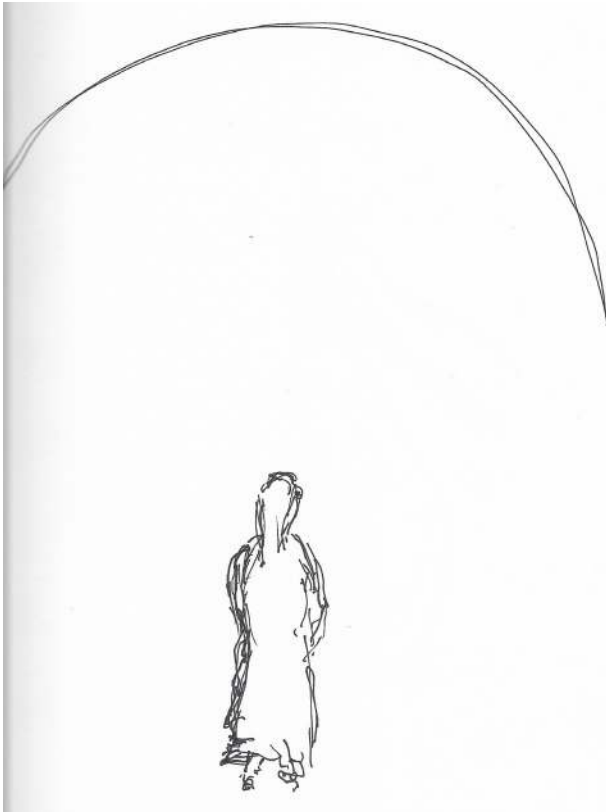
—Cindy Rinne, author of *silence between drumbeats*



Excerpt from an interview with Romaine Washington

interviewed by Dennis for the Shrimper blog

<http://www.shrimperrecords.com/romaine-washingtons-forthcoming-purgatory-has-an-address-book-is-available-for-preorder-now/>



Romaine Washington is the author of Sirens in Her Belly (2015, Jamii Publications). She is a fellow of The Watering Hole, South Carolina and the Inland Area Writing Project at the University of California Riverside. She is an active member of the poetry community in the Inland Empire, through the Inlandia Institute and elsewhere. Romaine is an educator and a native Californian from San Bernardino. Her new book, Purgatory Has An Address, is out now and boils down all of Washington's talents and gifts into a stunning read. Washington has a talent for sifting out the superfluous without sacrificing the beauty of language.

DENNIS: *Purgatory Has An Address* reads to me like an economical autobiography. You write in a number of the poems in the book about a little girl that I am assuming is you, about your mom and dad and brother.

ROMAINE: Yes, most of the poems in the book are autobiographical based on family experience. A few years ago my mom died and left a packet of photos that allowed me to put together her homegoing program. These photos were evidence of the many life stories she shared with me. Sifting through her snapshots spun me into a place where I could give myself permission to ask questions and voice ideas that I had previously kept at bay. Some emotions spun around like a car tire stuck in the mud. Other feelings expressed themselves as these long meandering journeys that walked around old neighborhoods.

DENNIS: There is a grouping of poems halfway through the book that are about the Inland Empire of your youth, my youth. The Chino winds, the horseflies, the baked dirt. South Carolina and San Bernardino County have a lot in common. That these writings are in this intensely personal book seems to point to how much your surroundings shaped you.

ROMAINE: Yes, I do believe that the rituals we adopt as part of our way of seeing and navigating our surroundings is based on where we live and they become a part of who we are. For certain, it is the setting of all of our personal narrative. For example, because my father was in the military, Norton Air Force Base wasn't just a place of economic stability for San Bernardino, but for our family. When my father died, the air force base was a constant that I, like many residents, thought we could rely on.

When we talk about images of black children and women in stories and movies, the last thing that comes to mind for many people is not the life of someone who lives in a middle-class home next to a farm but this was my lived experience. It is not glamorous nor profane, it is not urban-dangerous, edgy or sexy. My memory of place and the everydayness of hopes, disappointments, and searing boredom are part of my life's snapshots.



Bamboo Dart Special Projects

Bamboo Dart Press is pleased to announce a new line of Special Projects to tantalize your ears while stimulating your literary mind. We are creating unique CD/chapbook packages from your favorite independent artists.

To whet your whistle and pique your interest, keep your eye on this space for emerging details about the new Refrigerator record in 2021. The DELUXE edition will include the first Bamboo Dart Press Special Projects CD/chapbook combination featuring drawings, short stories, additional songs, photographs, lyrics, and essays by the band. It is quite the introduction to the new Bamboo Dart Special Projects. People, get ready!

CURRENT TITLES

- BDP001 October 15, 2020 - Meg Pokrass "The Loss Detector"
- BDP002 November 15, 2020 - John Brantingham "Life, Orange to Pear"
- BDP003 January 15, 2021 - Dennis Callaci "Five Ghost Stories"
- BDP004 February 15, 2021 - Stephanie Barbé Hammer "Rescue Plan"

UPCOMING

- BDP005 April 15, 2021 - Romaine Washington "Purgatory Has An Address"
- BDP006 May 4, 2021 - Peter Cherches - "Tracks: Memoirs from a Life with Music"
- BDP007 May 10, 2021 - Gail Butensky - "Every Bend"
- BDP008 - June 1, 2021 - Allen Callaci - "17 & Life"

Bamboo Dart Press Distribution

Bamboo Dart Press utilizes the independent arms of distribution that both imprints favor (direct sales from Bamboo Dart Press, Grapefruit distribution) as well as larger distributors including Amazon, Ingram, and Revolver USA. Each chapbook is also available in electronic form through wholesalers like Baker & Taylor and Tolino, library resources including Overdrive and Bibliotheca, and retail outlets like Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and Apple.

Grapefruit Record Club: <https://grapefruitrecordclub.com/products?keywords=bamboo+dart+press>

California Imagism Gallery

www.californiaimagismgallery.com

The **California Imagism Gallery** is offering an ongoing subscription-based Flash Fiction class that costs \$25 a year, plus the cost of the books from Bamboo Dart Press. Most sessions will include a craft talk, workshop, and/or generative exercises. The core faculty are John Brantingham, Stephanie Barbé Hammer, and Meg Pokrass. It's a year-long monthly class on flash fiction, taught by some incredibly smart and interesting writers.

Register at Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/flash-fiction-monthly-class-tickets-137858345021>

All of the books you'll need for these courses
are conveniently listed at www.bamboodartpress.com/art/california_imagism_gallery.html



Photographs by Gail Butensky

Check out “Every Bend” by Gail Butensky coming May 10, 2021

http://www.bamboodartpress.com/store/gail_butensky-every_bend.html

Bamboo Dart Press PREORDERS

Bamboo Dart Press is pleased to announce that all upcoming titles are now available for PREORDER. Get in now and get the latest Bamboo Dart Press chapbooks delivered to you as soon as they are released. The gettin’ has never been so good.

If you are interested in contributing to the next sletter, please send your ideas to sletter@bamboodartpress.com