

INTERVIEW WITH ALICE NOTLEY

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MGT: So what's Needles like? Lots of tumbleweeds I'm guessing. Did you build tumbleweed forts in Needles?

AN: No, no tumbleweeds. It's south of Joshua Tree. I remember making a house with blankets on top of creosote bushes. But you'd go in the gully and make a fort, you made forts.

MGT: That desert landscape is about survival right? To be a plant in the desert you have to try harder than if you were a plant in the rainforest.

AN: There is this gigantic ancient creosote bush in the Mojave Desert that's been carbon dated to be about 13,000 years old.

MGT: That goes back to time. In the time of rocks and planets, we're very all very miniscule.

AN: But the mind is very large--probably as large as the universe--so it's better to think of that. The planet is very local, but I don't feel very local. I don't think I'm a local being. I don't think that way. I can think any way I want to because I have a large mind.

MGT: What's the first book you ever read?

AN: I have no idea. I think I knew how to read before I admitted it to myself. It was probably something like *The Saggy Baggy Elephant*. This was this a book about this little girl who would go through the jungle, and she would meet animals and they would have a problem, and she would help them. Then they would say to her, "Thank you little girl, you are kind and brave and beautiful." I have a copy of that book as a grown-up. The *Saggy Baggy Elephant* still exists, my granddaughters know it. I remember one time I did something for my father and he said to me, "Thank you little girl, you are kind and brave and beautiful," and it made me feel terrific.

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Jeanine Deibel works as an editor for *Puerto del Sol* and Noemi Press. Her poetry is forthcoming in *Colorado Review*, *Cream City Review*, and *Hayden's Ferry Review*, among others. She is the author of the chapbook, *IN THE GRAVE* (Birds of Lace Press, 2013). Her second chapbook, *Spyre*, is forthcoming on Dancing Girl Press in Summer 2014. For more visit: jeaninedeibel.weebly.com.

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Kate Greenstreet's books are *Young Tambling*, *The Last 4 Things*, and *case sensitive*, all with Ahsahta Press. For more about Kate, visit her site at kickingwind.com.

Brandi Homan is the author of two books (*Hard Reds* and *Bobcat Country*) from Shearsman. She is currently a doctoral student at the University of Denver.

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Kathe Izzo has been known as The Love Artist, falling in love with the world one person at a time ~ for one hour, one day, one early morning or late evening, spontaneously and/or by commission ~ as performance: The True Love Project. A nationally published poet and essayist, with work in numerous journals and anthologies, she is in the process of finishing a two volume magical realism memoir, *LOVE: EVIDENCE OF ABSENCE* and *LOVE: THE SERVANT QUEEN* on True Love, plant spirits, the art world, motherhood & matriarchal lineages.

Gary Jacobelly works, lives and dies around the Los Angeles waterfront as a long-shoreman. Jacobelly's published works includes a chapbook of poetry *Atomic Mutations of the Heart* (Vinegar Hill Press). Jacobelly has written plays produced by Al's National Theater and Theater of NOTE, Los Angeles. Jacobelly's band Peer Group has a CD, *Rhetoric and Hands*, released by Water Under the Bridge records.

Meg Johnson is the author of the full length poetry collection *Inappropriate Sleepover* (The National Poetry Review Press, 2014). Her poems have appeared in *Hobart*, *Nashville Review*, *The Puritan*, *Sugar House Review*, *Verse Daily*, and others. She is the editor of *Dressing Room Poetry Journal* and recently received her MFA in creative writing from the NEOMFA Program. Her website is: megjohnson.org

Ilya Kaminsky was born in Odessa, former Soviet Union in 1977, and arrived to the United States in 1993, when his family was granted asylum by the American government. Ilya is the author of *Dancing In Odessa* (Tupelo Press, 2004) which won the Whiting Writer's Award, the American Academy of Arts and Letters' Metcalf Award, the Dorset Prize, the Ruth Lilly Fellowship given annually by *Poetry* magazine. *Dancing In Odessa* was also named Best Poetry Book of the Year 2004 by *ForeWord Magazine*. In 2008, Kaminsky was awarded Lannan Foundation's Literary Fellowship. Poems from his new manuscript, *Deaf Republic*, were awarded *Poetry* magazine's Levinson Prize and the Pushcart Prize.

Adeena Karasick is a poet, cultural theorist, media artist, and author of seven books of poetry and poetic theory, most recently *This Poem* (Talonbooks, 2012). She is founding co-coordinator of the Klezkanada Poetry Festival. The "Adeena Karasick Archive" has just been established at Special Collections, Simon Fraser University.

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Jennifer L. Knox's next book of poems, *Days of Shame and Failure*, is forthcoming from Bloof Books in 2015. Her work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *American Poetry Review* and four times in the *Best American Poetry* series.
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Mark Lamoureux lives in New Haven, CT. He is the winner of the *Ping-Pong* poetry competition 2014. He is the author of three full-length collections of poetry: *Spectre* (Black Radish Books 2010), *Astrometry Orgonon* (BlazeVOX Books 2008), and *29 Cheeseburgers / 39 Years* (Pressed Wafer, 2013). His work has been published in print and online in *Cannibal*, *Denver Quarterly*, *Jacket*, *Fourteen Hills* and many others.

Emily Laubham is a student at The University of Pittsburgh, earning her degree in Fiction Writing and a certificate in Public and Professional Writing. She started making up stories in second grade, and hasn't been able to stop since.

Ruth Lepson is poet-in-residence at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. In recent years she has been collaborating with musicians in Box Lunch and low road. Her fourth collection is forthcoming from Pressed Wafer.

Susan Lewis lives in New York City and edits *Posit*. Her most recent books are *This Visit*, *How to be Another*, and *State of the Union*. Her work has appeared in many journals and anthologies, including *Berkeley Poetry Review*, *BlazeVOX*, *The Brooklyn Rail*, *Cimarron Review*, *Fact-Simile*, *The New Orleans Review*, *Otoliths*, *Phoebe*, *Raritan*, *Seneca Review*, *Verse (online)*, and *Verse Daily*.

Timothy Liu is the author of nine books of poems, including the forthcoming *Don't Go Back to Sleep*. He lives in Manhattan with his husband.

Sarah Mangold lives near Seattle and is the recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts 2013 Poetry Fellowship. She is the author of *Household Mechanics* (New Issues, 2002), selected by C. D. Wright for the New Issues Poetry prize and the forthcoming *Boxer Rebellion* (Kore, 2015). Recent chapbooks include *The Goddess Can Be Recognized By Her Step* (Dusie Kollektiv), *Cupcake Royale* (above/ground) and *An Antenna Called The Body* (LRL Textile editions). From 2002-2009 she edited *Bird Dog*, a print journal of innovative writing and art.

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