

PRESS RELEASE FEBRUARY 2024

Woven

Commissioned by Red Room Poetry

Edited by Anne-Marie Te Whiu

New poetry anthology *Woven* weaves together First Nations voices from around the globe

Magabala Books, in collaboration with Red Room Poetry, is thrilled to announce the release of *Woven* out 1 February 2024, a groundbreaking poetry anthology edited by Anne-Marie Te Whiu, that brings together some of the world's leading First Nations poets.

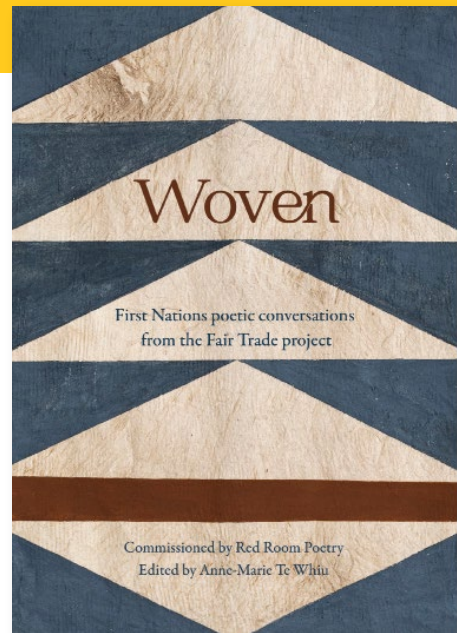
In a world first, the anthology features collaborations by 30 First Nations poets from around the globe, including Jackie Huggins and Linda Tuhiwai Smith (Aotearoa NZ), Ali Cobby Eckermann and Joy Harjo (USA), Tony Birch and Simon J. Ortiz (USA), Ellen van Neerven and Layli Long Soldier (USA), Evelyn Araluen and Anahera Gildea (Aotearoa NZ) to name but a few.

'By anchoring the project in relationality, *Woven's* foundation is about how we connect with each other and what we are prepared, as First Nation artists, to offer and receive. The emphasis was about (re)generating poetic First Nations bonds – solidarity, consensus, family, land, oceans, the moon, remembering, dreaming, sharing, opening, mourning, respect, celebrating, finding, losing, healing and more healing,' explains Anne-Marie Te Whiu.

With poets from various First Nations backgrounds, including Sami, Māori, Chamoru, American First Nations, and Indigenous Australians, the anthology offers a diverse and experimental range of poetic styles, reflecting the rich tapestry of First Nations voices. The poems are anchored in community, place, and ancestral connections and are a remarkable example of inter-cultural dialogue.

'We are incredibly excited about the release of *Woven*,' says Magabala Editor Arlie Alizzi. 'This anthology is a unique and bold experiment in Indigenous poetry that reflects respect, solidarity, and mutual recognition across international borders.'

Woven will officially be launched at the Aotearoa NZ Festival of the Arts in February 2024. Following the launch in Wellington, *Woven* will have its Australian launch in March 2024 at the Blak&Bright festival in Naarm (Melbourne).



Poet Collaborations in the Anthology

- Jackie Huggins & Linda Tuhiwai Smith (Aotearoa NZ)
- Ali Cobby Eckermann & Joy Harjo (USA)
- Natalie Harkin & Leanne Betasamosake Simpson (Canada)
- Samuel Wagan Watson & Sigbjørn Skåden (Norway)
- Tony Birch & Simon J. Ortiz (USA)
- Ellen van Neerven & Layli Long Soldier (USA)
- Evelyn Araluen & Anahera Gildea (Aotearoa NZ)
- Lorna Munro & January Rodgers (Canada)
- Alison Whittaker & Nadine Hura (Aotearoa NZ)
- Rhyan Clapham (aka Dobby) & Nils Rune Utsi (aka SlinCraze) (Norway)
- Declan Fry & Craig Santos Perez (Guam Island)
- Bebe Backhouse-Oliver & Peter Sipeli (Fiji)
- Jazz Money & Cassandra Barnett (Aotearoa NZ)
- Charmaine Papertalk Green & Anna Naupa (Vanuatu)
- Chelsea Watego & Emma Wehipeihana (Aotearoa NZ)
- Raelee Lancaster & essa may ranapiri (Aotearoa NZ)

Available February 2024 in all good bookshops and online from Magabala Books — RRP \$27.99

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About the Editor

Anne-Marie Te Whiu is an Australian-born Māori who belongs to the Te Rarawa iwi in Hokianga, Aotearoa NZ. She is a poet, editor, and weaver, and her work has been published widely nationally and internationally. Anne-Marie was a 2021 Next Chapter Fellowship recipient and has contributed to various publications, including *Another Australia* (Affirm Press), *Te Awa o Kupu* (Penguin), and many more.



About Red Room Poetry

Red Room Poetry (RR) is Australia's leading organisation for commissioning, creating, publishing, and promoting poetry in meaningful ways. Their poetic projects are created in collaboration with a spectrum of poets, communities, and partners for positive impact in core areas of environment, amplification, First Nations, youth, and marginalised voices. They aim to make poetry highly visible, vibrant, relevant, and accessible, especially to those who face the greatest barriers to creative opportunities.



About Magabala Books

Magabala Books is Australia's leading Indigenous publishing house. Aboriginal owned and led, we celebrate and nurture the talent and diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices.

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