MEDIA RELEASE
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NEW AND SELECTED POEMS OF ANNA WICKHAM
Edited by Nathanael O'Reilly

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The publication of Anna Wickham’s New and Selected Poems is a landmark event for poets and readers and will allow us to properly celebrate this vocational, passionate and important voice for the first time.
– Carol Ann Duffy

Anna Wickham (1883-1947) was one of the most important female poets writing in English during the first half of the twentieth century. A pioneer of Modernist poetry, she was also a fierce feminist, social activist, and friend of significant writers including DH Lawrence, George Bernard Shaw, Dylan Thomas, Katherine Mansfield, Natalie Clifford Barney, Kate O’Brien and Lawrence Durrell. She produced a unique, daring and influential body of work while living a dramatic, often tragic life, which ended with her suicide. During her lifetime, Wickham published two plays in Australia, five collections of poetry in England, and one book of poetry in the United States.

Wickham’s transnational, unconventional life provided her with a unique worldview; she drew heavily on her own experiences in her poetry while interrogating conceptions of gender roles, marriage, motherhood, sexuality and class. While Wickham’s poetry earned her a major reputation during her lifetime, and her most famous poems continue to be anthologised, most of her published work is out of print with many poems never published.

New and Selected Poems of Anna Wickham is the first collection of Wickham’s poetry to be published in over three decades. In addition to bringing many of her greatest poems back into print, this collection publishes one hundred and fifty of Wickham’s remarkable poems for the first time, significantly expanding her body of published work and demonstrating her significant poetic achievement.

ABOUT THE EDITOR
Dr Nathanael O’Reilly teaches Australian, British, Irish and Postcolonial literature at Texas Christian University. In 2015, he was a Visiting Research Fellow in the Menzies Centre for Australian Studies at King’s College London. He is the co-editor of Tim Winton: Critical Essays; author of Exploring Suburbia: The Suburbs in the Contemporary Australian Novel; editor of Postcolonial Issues in Australian Literature; and co-editor of special issues of Antipodes and The Journal of Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies. O’Reilly’s poetry has been published in journals and anthologies in eight countries and he is the recipient of an Emerging Writers Grant from the Australia Council for the Arts.

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