Coffee House Press began as a small letterpress operation in 1972 and has grown into an internationally renowned non-profit publisher of literary fiction, essay, poetry, and other work that doesn’t fit neatly into genre categories.

Coffee House is both a publisher and an arts organization. Through our Books in Action program and publications, we’ve become interdisciplinary collaborators and incubators for new work and audience experiences. Our vision for the future is one where a publisher is a catalyst and connector.

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Stephen Florida
A novel by Gabe Habash

A troubled college wrestler in North Dakota falls in love and becomes increasingly unhinged during his final season.

*Foxcatcher* meets *The Art of Fielding*, *Stephen Florida* follows a college wrestler in his senior season, when every practice, every match, is a step closer to greatness and a step further from sanity. Profane, manic, and tipping into the uncanny, it’s a story of loneliness, obsession, and the drive to leave a mark.

“In *Stephen Florida*, Gabe Habash has created a coming-of-age story with its own, often explosive, rhythm and velocity. Habash has a canny sense of how young men speak and behave, and in Stephen, he’s created a singular character: funny, ambitious, affecting, but also deeply troubled, vulnerable, and compellingly strange. This is a shape-shifter of a book, both a dark ode to the mysteries and landscapes of the American West and a complex and convincing character study.”

—HANYA YANAGIHARA, AUTHOR OF *A LITTLE LIFE*

“*Stephen Florida* is an unforgettable addition to the canon of great literary eccentrics. At once a chronicle of obsession, a philosophical treatise, and a deeply affecting love story, this singular novel is perhaps most profoundly an anatomy of American loneliness. Gabe Habash is a writer of powerful gifts, and this is a wonderful book.”

—GARTH GREENWELL, AUTHOR OF *WHAT BELONGS TO YOU*

GABE HABASH is the fiction reviews editor for *Publishers Weekly*. He holds an MFA from New York University and lives in New York.
The Gift
A novel by Barbara Browning

A sometimes funny, sometimes catastrophically sad story of performance art, ukuleles, dance, and our attempts and failures to make contact.

In the midst of Occupy, Barbara Andersen begins spamming people indiscriminately with ukulele covers of sentimental songs. A series of inappropriate intimacies ensues, including an erotically charged correspondence and then collaboration with an extraordinarily gifted and troubled musician living in Germany.

PRAISE FOR BARBARA BROWNING

“A provocative novel . . . that blurs the boundaries between life and performance, dance, art, and viral video.”
—SLATE

“Deftly blending highbrow intellectual concerns with the informality of Facebook-era communiqués, Browning’s newest is as entertaining as it is thought-provoking.”
—PUBLISHERS WEEKLY, STARRED REVIEW

BARBARA BROWNING teaches in the Department of Performance Studies at the NYU Tisch School of the Arts. She received her PhD in Comparative Literature from Yale University. She is the author of the novels The Correspondence Artist (winner of a Lambda Literary Award) and I’m Trying to Reach You (short-listed for the Believer Book Award). She also makes dances, poems, and ukulele cover tunes.

EMILY BOOKS is a publishing project and e-book subscription service that champions transgressive, genre-blurring writing by (mostly) women. Its founders are Ruth Curry and Emily Gould.

ALSO AVAILABLE FROM EMILY BOOKS:
• Problems $16.95 • Trade Paper
• I’ll Tell You in Person $16.95 • Trade Paper

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On a long, hot day, Gareth searches for a missing pregnant cow. A dog must be put down, there are ducks to go in the pond, there are children, and there is Kate, his wife, who may be an uncrossable distance from him. Jones’s rural Wales is alive with the necessities of our own animal instincts and most human longing.

PRAISE FOR CYNAN JONES

“Prose that calls to mind both the severity of Cormac McCarthy and the psychological lucidity of John Updike.”

—PUBLISHERS WEEKLY, STARRED REVIEW

“This is a novel with a heft far beyond its size. . . . [The Dig is] a kind of diptych about violence, loss, and the different ways one can be trapped. It is absolutely unflinching.”

—NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW

“Jones’ prose clips along at an unnerving pace, barely giving you time to process the previous beautiful image before knocking you dead with the next one.”

—GREEN APPLE BOOKS

CYNAN JONES was born near Aberaeron on the west coast of Wales in 1975. He is the author of five short novels, The Long Dry; Everything I Found on the Beach; Bird, Blood, Snow; The Dig; and Cove. His work has been translated into several languages, and his short stories have appeared in a number of anthologies and publications, including Granta.

ALSO AVAILABLE:
• The Dig
  $15.95 • Trade Paper
• Everything I Found on the Beach
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What does it mean to think about Dallas in relationship to Dallas? In The History of the Future, McPherson reexamines American places and the space between history, experience, and myth. Private streets, racism, and the St. Louis World’s Fair; fracking for oil and digging for dinosaurs in North Dakota boomtowns—Americana slides into apocalypse in these essays, revealing us to ourselves.

“In The History of the Future, McPherson explores America in all its beauty and strangeness. He is funny and searching—a joy to read.”

—ELIZABETH KOLBERT

“Edward McPherson’s meditations on the United States—from its soaring, vulnerable architecture to its deep underground tunnels—are bracing in their acknowledgment of what’s been lost to time and his anxieties about what’s ahead. This is a smart and beautifully written book about America.”

—REBECCA TRAISTER

EDWARD MCPHERSON is the author of two previous books: Buster Keaton: Tempest in a Flat Hat (Faber & Faber) and The Backwash Squeeze and Other Improbable Feats (HarperCollins). He has written for the New York Times Magazine, the Paris Review, Tin House, and the American Scholar, among others. He has received a Pushcart Prize, the Gulf Coast Prize in Fiction, a Minnesota State Arts Board grant, and the Gesell Award from the University of Minnesota, where he received his MFA. He teaches creative writing at Washington University in St. Louis.
At the Lightning Field
An essay by Laura Raicovich

An exploration of coincidences of history, light, space, duration, chaos theory, mathematics, memory, and Walter De Maria’s The Lightning Field.

Walter De Maria’s The Lightning Field is four hundred stainless steel poles, positioned two hundred and twenty feet apart, in the desert of central New Mexico. Over the course of several visits, it becomes, for Raicovich, a site for confounding and revealing perceptions of time, space, duration, and light; how changeable they are, while staying the same.

“Make a pilgrimage to The Lightning Field by walking the lines of this book and building something beautiful in your mind’s eye with the author, who will take you there and many places besides.”

—REBECCA SOLNIT

Laura Raicovich works as president and executive director of the Queens Museum. She is the author of A Diary of Mysterious Difficulties (Publication Studio), a book based on Viagra and Cialis spam, and is an editor of Assuming Boycott: Resistance, Agency, and Cultural Production (OR Books).
Little Boxes: Twelve Writers on Television

Essays

Cultural criticism for people who grew up with television as the primary background noise.

What happens when television is part of your cultural DNA? Twelve writers talk about their influences, and they’re more Magnum, P.I. than Marcel Proust. This is cultural criticism from an enthusiast’s point of view—taking sitcoms and dramedies and very special episodes seriously, not because they’re art, but because they matter to us.

FROM LITTLE BOXES, ON TWIN PEAKS: “MY MONSTER” BY EDAN LEPUCKI

“What I remember: a dead girl wrapped in plastic, and another one half-alive and stumbling along train tracks, her body covered in cuts and bruises, her clothes torn. Letters tweezed from beneath fingernails. The dead girl blue-white like a vein. Her name is Laura Palmer. There’s also a lady cradling a log, and a beautiful woman who knots cherry stems with her tongue. Handsome Agent Cooper with his hair slicked back. The name Peggy Lipton lingering across the screen as the eerie theme song sluices through my veins.”
Thousand Star Hotel
Poetry by Bao Phi

Poems from a father, a refugee, an activist resisting the invisibility of the Asian American urban poor.

“Vietnamese people joke that they don’t need a four-star hotel—even the homeless, sleeping in the wide open, are treated to a thousand star hotel every night. 1996 in the countryside of Vietnam, I front like I’m better than a tourist simply because I was born here. Hot-spring water is piped into a spartan concrete pool, so grey you can tell its color in the pitch dark. Overhead are the most stars I’ve ever seen in my life. They take what little breath I have away. I can’t swim, not even to save myself, but still I soak and look overhead.”

—from “Thousand Star Hotel”

“The many fans of Bao Phi will be thrilled by this book. New readers will be seduced by his trademark blend of passion, politics, and poetry. His poems alternate between the profane and the provocative as they deal with war and history, love and heartbreak, the inner city and the inner self. A powerful read, a gutsy writer.”

—VIET THANH NGUYEN

BAO PHI is a multiple-time Minnesota Grand Slam poetry champ and National Poetry Slam finalist who has been on HBO’s Russell Simmons Presents Def Poetry and whose work was included in the Best American Poetry anthology of 2006. He is the author of Sông I Sing and is currently the program director of the Loft Literary Center.

ALSO AVAILABLE:
• Sông I Sing
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Good Stock Strange Blood
Poetry by Dawn Lundy Martin

Bold, formally innovative prose poems that challenge our ideas of race, voice, bodies, and justice.

“The book of repression—
all the stuff brilliantly cocking my throat
no dream remembered
no past reconstructed

he called it a kiss but that was no kiss

— rises, dead breath into smoke
the writing is not balm
the I in sleep is unreachable,
subtle flesh, skin warm milk, salt marsh
—its simplicity. Without warning.”

—from “The Book of Repression”

PRAISE FOR DAWN LUNDY MARTIN

• Lambda Literary Award Winner

“These poems are dense and deep. They are necessary, and hot on the eye. I was reminded of Leslie Scalapino, the sensitivity to the surrounding arrangements and to human suffering. There is no distance from Martin’s subject, but immersion and emotional conflict. Discipline is what it took to write such a potent set of poems.”

—FANNY HOWE

DAWN LUNDY MARTIN is the author of A Gathering of Matter / A Matter of Gathering (University of Georgia Press, 2007), Discipline (Nightboat Books, 2011), and Life in a Box is a Pretty Life (Nightboat Books, 2015). Martin is also a cofounder of the Black Took Collective and a member of the HOWDO YOUSAYYAMINAFRICA? global arts collective. She is associate professor of English at the University of Pittsburgh.
Fugitive, in Full View
Poetry by Jack Marshall

Lyrical, activist poetry rooted in a deep appreciation for family, for love, and for beauty.

“Reaching eighty, mouthing on, call it ego, call it Nietzsche’s ‘optimism of a desperado,’ fugitive, in full view, ignition near at hand needs a mouth to bloom.

The book begins, the pages blank, white, witless, lit beams hover before flitting away.

Boo-hoo does no good; not a jot registers on the Richter scale. Good-bye, hello, the end is back, gotta go perishable, virtual, wormhole book.”

—from “Ignition”

PRAISE FOR JACK MARSHALL

“[Marshall] understands that all worlds, the material and the spiritual, are one, and that the neighborhoods and cities that no longer exist can be conjured by memory and reanimated by art.”

—SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

JACK MARSHALL was born in Brooklyn to Jewish parents who emigrated from Iraq and Syria and now lives in California. He is the author of the memoir From Baghdad to Brooklyn and several poetry collections that have received the PEN Center USA Literary Award, two Northern California Book Awards, and a nomination from the National Book Critics Circle.

ALSO AVAILABLE:
- Arabian Nights
- Sesame
- Millennium Fever
- Gorgeous Chaos
- From Baghdad to Brooklyn
- The Steel Veil
- Spiral Trace

RIGHTS: UK and Translation, Audio/Audio-Visual, Dramatic
The Latehomecomer: A Hmong Family Memoir
by Kao Kalia Yang

One Hmong family's harrowing escape from war in Laos to the uncertainty of a new home as refugees in Minnesota.

Yang’s award-winning memoir of her family’s harrowing escape from war in Laos is a love letter to her grandmother, a troubling portrait of the consequences of U.S. intervention in Southeast Asia, and a glimpse into the little-seen exodus of the Hmong people, first to refugee camps in Thailand and then, for many, to new homes in Minnesota.

AN NEA BIG READ SELECTION

• Featuring a new reader’s guide

“This is the best account of the Hmong experience I’ve ever read—powerful, heartbreaking, and unforgettable.”

—ANNE FADIMAN, AUTHOR OF THE SPIRIT CATCHES YOU AND YOU FALL DOWN

“A narrative packed with the stuff of life.”

—ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY

KAO KALIA YANG is a teacher, public speaker, and writer. Yang is the author of the award-winning book The Latehomecomer: A Hmong Family Memoir (Coffee House Press, 2008) and the book The Song Poet (Metropolitan Books, 2016). She is a graduate of Carleton College and Columbia University’s School of the Arts. Yang lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota, with her family.
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