

# In This Issue



- Nguyen Phan Que Mai and Bruce Weigl Visit Rochester



- Announcing the Fifth Annual BOA Short Fiction Prize



- Free shipping at the BOA Bookstore until 4/30

# the BOAhemian

the e-newsletter of BOA Editions, Ltd. | volume 4 | issue 1 | spring 2015

## BOA's Featured Titles

### *Kingdom Animalia*

Poems by Aracelis Girmay



On March 5, 2015, poet Aracelis Girmay was presented with a 2015 Whiting Award for Poetry. 2015 marks the 30th anniversary for each of these prestigious \$50,000 awards given annually to ten exceptional emerging writers of fiction, nonfiction, drama, and poetry. In the

case of Girmay, the published work the judges read was *Kingdom Animalia* (BOA, 2011). According to the judges, "[Girmay's] project seems to be our deep and ongoing subjectivity, our vulnerability to history, to one another, to desire, and to the belief in something large and lasting that we might belong to. The beauty of these poems is always married to a deep, implacable pang." Click here to read Andrew Solomon's remarkable keynote speech from the awards ceremony. Girmay's new collection, *The Black Maria*, is forthcoming from BOA in 2016.

### *Copia*

Poems by Erika Meitner

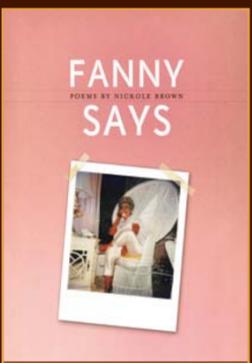


Erika Meitner's stunning poem "Outside the Abandoned Packard Plant," from her fall BOA book *Copia*, was featured as the poem of the week in a recent issue of the *New York Times Magazine*. The poem was selected for the newly relaunched magazine by former U.S. Poet Laureate

Natasha Trethewey. According to the NYT, "There is a driving rhythm in this poem—the industry of crickets, the forward motion of the lines—even as there is no man-made machinery at work in the defunct auto plant. The contrast between the two heightens the tension between what is lost and the image, in the last line, of a possible future."

### *Fanny Says*

Poems by Nickole Brown



Nickole Brown's new collection *Fanny Says*, was recently included in NPR Books' 2015 Poetry Preview, a list that "offers plenty of the balm and fervor we need right now." According to the preview, "Brown's sprawling sophomore collection is a lyrical biography to her wise and irreverent southern grandmother. Along with a memorable lesson in the use of the word 'flutter,' what'll stick most is this book's unknown 'word for all things left unbroken, a word for breakable yet unbroken things.'"

## 'The Secret of Hoa Sen' in the Snow

Nguyen Phan Que Mai and Bruce Weigl visit Rochester



Nguyen Phan Que Mai and Bruce Weigl with BOA/WAB staff and BOA board members

Nguyen Phan Que Mai had never seen winter like this before: snow banks towering over her head, every step an icy adventure, a steady blanket of white flakes drifting through the air. In Rochester, we learn to bow our heads and soldier through March by harboring the dim promise that spring will come, eventually. But mostly, we're just focused on staying warm. Not so with Nguyen Phan Que Mai. As we walked out of the BOA office, she spun around, catching snowflakes on her tongue and calling out, "It tastes so good!"

Just like that, winter had become new again. In fact, it was beautiful. Nguyen Phan Que Mai had illuminated the mundane and elevated it to a place of wonder. That is a trick she also manages consistently in her phenomenal new poetry collection, *The Secret of Hoa Sen*.



In early March, BOA Editions was proud to partner with Rochester, NY, literary center Writers & Books to host a series of writing workshops and a culminating reading with Nguyen Phan Que Mai and her translator (and award-winning poet) Bruce Weigl. The workshops were titled "Writing from Trauma & Getting Published" and "Finding Your Voice: A Special Workshop on Identity". The culminating event featured Bruce Weigl reading English versions of the poems and Nguyen Phan Que Mai reading from the original Vietnamese. Taking time to share anecdotes of their long-time collaboration, insights into the translation process, discussions about Vietnamese culture, and even a lively group lesson on the Vietnamese language, their event left everyone in the room feeling warmed by their presence. Albert Abonado, Director of Adult Programming for Writers & Books, called the event, "one of the most beautiful readings I have ever seen."

Nguyen Phan Que Mai and Bruce Weigl visited Rochester while on a U.S. book tour that also took them to the TechArts Festival in Atlanta, the Lannan Foundation in Santa Fe, and Poets House in New York City. The tour was organized in celebration of their new book, *The Secret of Hoa Sen*, which was published within BOA's Lannan Translations Selection Series in November 2014.

BOA thanks Writers & Books for its partnership in this event, and, as always, the Lannan Foundation, which makes our translation series possible. We are most grateful to Nguyen Phan Que Mai and Bruce Weigl for visiting Rochester and reminding us that—even in the dead of winter—the world is full of poetry.

—Peter Conners, Publisher

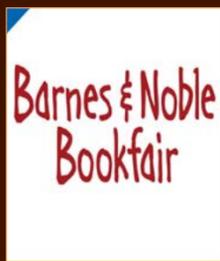
## Upcoming Events

#AWP15 in Minneapolis  
April 8-12, 2015



BOA is excited to be at AWP 2015 in Minneapolis! We will be hosting a panel on Friday, April 10, called "The Poetry of Translation," and will have book signings each day at the Bookfair with the authors of our newest titles! Many of our authors and translators will also be involved in panels and events (onsite and offsite) during the conference. See the full list of events, [here](#). Our Bookfair tables will be 830 and 832. Stop by and say hello!

### BOA Celebrates National Poetry Month with Barnes & Noble | April 18, 2015



On Saturday, April 18, a percentage of all Barnes & Noble purchases will help support BOA Editions! Simply present this voucher at any store that day, or use Bookfair ID# 11556057 online through April 23 to support BOA! Thank you!

### 'Poetry Is Jazz' and RoCo '6x6' Call for Entries



BOA and RoCo are calling for 6x6x2015 literary entries! Have a haiku, short story, or another literary-themed idea you can fit on a 6"x6" board? Send it in by April 19! [Click here](#) for more information and guidelines.

SAVE THE DATE: BOA is glad to collaborate with RoCo again on June 23 for our annual "Poetry Is Jazz" event, which will feature a poetry reading by Nin Andrews from her new BOA collection *Why God Is a Woman!* The reading will be accompanied by live jazz and painting. Stay tuned for more details!

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THE FIFTH ANNUAL  
**BOA EDITIONS  
SHORT FICTION PRIZE**  
APRIL 1—MAY 31  
JUDGE: BOA PUBLISHER PETER CONNERS  
[Click here for eligibility requirements and guidelines.](#)

## Announcing the Fifth Annual BOA Short Fiction Prize

Established in 2010, the BOA Short Fiction Prize recognizes outstanding short story collections by writers at any stage in their career, and publishes them within BOA's long-running American Reader Series. This series was originally established in 1998 as a vehicle for prose about poetry and poetics, and was later expanded to include short fiction, a valuable and underserved literary genre.

The fifth annual BOA Short Fiction Prize will be awarded to a collection of short stories. BOA's short fiction collections feature voices more concerned with the artfulness of writing than the twists and turns of plot. As with our poetry, the first criterion for publishing any book is its artistic excellence.

Winner Receives:

- Book publication by BOA Editions, Ltd. in spring 2017, within BOA's American Reader Series
- A \$1,000 honorarium

Send one copy of your manuscript(s), the entry form, and the \$25 entry fee between April 1—May 31, 2015, to:

BOA Editions, Ltd.  
P.O. Box 30971  
Rochester, NY 14603

For eligibility requirements, submission guidelines, and the entry form, visit the BOA website: [www.boaeditions.org](http://www.boaeditions.org).

## Free Shipping for National Poetry Month

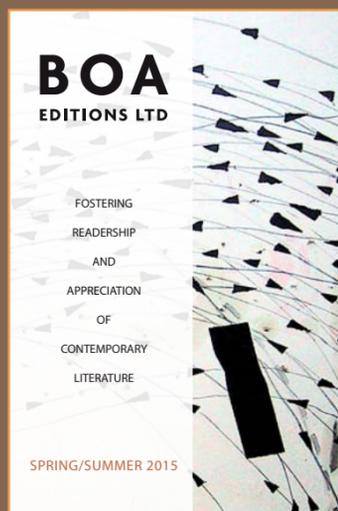
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## BOA's Spring/Summer 2015 Catalog



BOA's new title catalog is available electronically, making it easier for you to stay up-to-date on what's new from BOA. The Spring/Summer 2015 catalog features:

- *Fanny Says*, poems by Nickole Brown
- *Shame | Shame*, poems by Devin Becker (A. Poulin, Jr. Poetry Prize)
- *Why God Is a Woman*, poems by Nin Andrews
- *Testament*, a poem by G.C. Waldrep
- *Reptile House*, stories by Robin McLean (BOA Short Fiction Prize)
- *Smugglers*, poems by Ales Debeljak; translated from the Slovenian by Brian Henry

[Click here](#) to see what's new from BOA!

## BOA's Mission

BOA Editions, Ltd., a not-for-profit publisher of poetry and other literary works, fosters readership and appreciation of contemporary literature. By identifying, cultivating, and publishing both new and established poets and selecting authors of unique literary talent, BOA brings high quality literature to the public.

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