

Press Release

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NYQ Books™ Announces the Publication of *LOVE & DEATH* by Gordon Massman

March 21, 2014 - New York, NY - NYQ Books™ is proud to announce the publication of *LOVE & DEATH: Two Volume Set* by Gordon Massman. These books are available as a set of two books or individually.



LOVE & DEATH: Two Volume Set

Love walks with death, death with love; the two intensify each other's existence. These two books urged from the same visceral human pool are starred with identical sibling markings, deep set eyes, monkey mouths, dazzling corneas. The two are one in voice and form, one fingerprint, one long song. They are made to be known together for they are not, in fact, separate. Death creates love, love satiates death, and therefore, these two books, *LOVE & DEATH*, cannot breathe without each other. Gordon Massman wants you to read them both, not separately, but overlappingly, one from *LOVE* one from *DEATH*, like playing cards in shuffling hands. Only then with Love covered by Death covered by Love covered by Death can meaning be found. This is the way to understand the crucible of existence.



LOVE

Answering his psychotherapist's challenge to write a book of love poems, and finally after 64 years considering himself capable, Gordon Massman offers this volume appropriately titled *LOVE* which he considers to be a kind of single verbal symphonic composition with long outwardly-spiraling incantations surrounding brief intermezzo-like performances. The love here is primarily romantic and rises from ashes through comfort to ecstasy and descending and ascending again and again in the expression of all that he has internalized and investigated. Massman, as in his previous NYQ book, *0.174: The Complete Numbers Cycle*, rejects the trends and norms of establishment corporate poetry, intoning, sometimes infernally to conformists, his own unique inimitable productions. For the reader willing to undertake his excesses awaits occasionally a lovely fulfillment.



DEATH

With the recent deaths of his parents nine months apart and a lifelong egotistical dissatisfaction with personal extinction Gordon Massman throws everything he has at *DEATH*, the title of this characteristically unconventional performance. Shot with crisp actual deathbed snapshots stretches a long chanting incantatory expurgation which is the single multi-sectioned poem of this book. Death is never perturbed by artists and it is not perturbed here by this shot pea of a poem, but Massman believes there's worth in the shooting and so he shoots with his uniquely nonconforming weapons. Who approaches this book looking for revenge won't taste it here but he might find a kindred warrior with whom to join forces, and perhaps with whom more nobly to die.

Gordon Massman was born in 1949, in Corpus Christi, Texas, and attended the University of Texas—Austin, and the University of Alaska—Fairbanks. For twenty-five years he acquired scholarly and trade books in the social sciences and humanities for various scholarly and commercial publishers including The University of Wisconsin Press and Westview Press. He now teaches writing and literature at The Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts in North Adams, Massachusetts, and lives in Plainfield, Massachusetts.

NYQ Books™ was established in 2009 as an imprint of The New York Quarterly Foundation, Inc. Its mission is to augment the New York Quarterly poetry magazine by providing an additional venue for poets who are already published in the magazine.

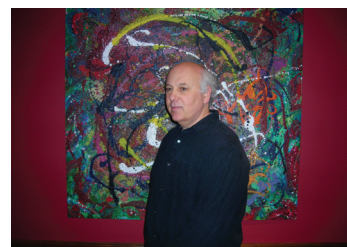


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