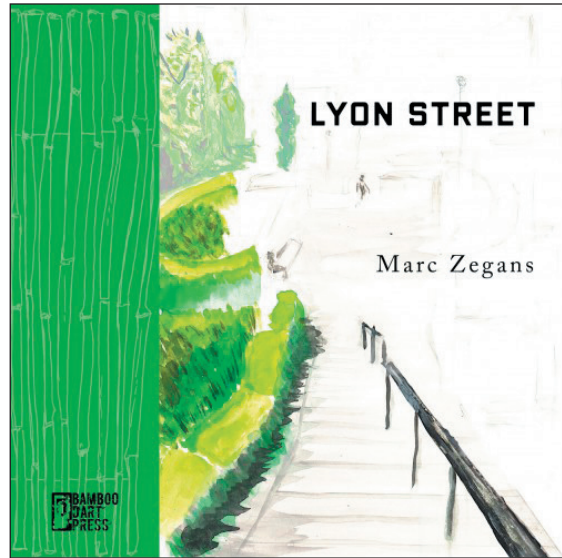


**Lyon Street**  
Marc Zegans  
Bamboo Dart Press, 2022  
53 pages; \$8.99  
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*Reviewed by Diane L. Wilder*

*Lyon Street* is a mesmerizing, contrapuntal narrative of personhood and place—themes independent and yet harmonically related to one another—that give this chapbook its creative swing. Zegans “named this book for the tumble of stairs between Broadway and Vallejo on Lyon Street in San Francisco,” where a significant part of his young adulthood was spent. Much of that old neighborhood has disappeared with new construction. *Lyon Street* is an ode to this now-gone stomping ground and the lovers, friends, accomplices, and acquaintances eloquently remembered within its pages. A map is provided that pinpoints the location for each poem, encouraging the reader to reflect on poetry as a form of cartography, mapping our internal and external destinations.



Zegans is a master of soft rhymes and alluring line breaks that surprise. In this excerpt from “Clearing”, this mastery is evident:

*“Clearing*

*Eucalypt cut cross my car  
as I bounded the curve  
at Lyon and Broadway*

*Houses there are always under  
construction, over the sharp slant  
that dives before the bay*

*Empty places those, a spare light  
for the servants here, a garage  
light there, but no life” . . .*

Poems such as “Solstice” (excerpt below) speak profoundly about the value of memories against the currency of the Now.

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*"I washed back twenty years tonight  
sitting on a suede barstool at Solstice  
drinking soda-water in the place  
once Major Pond's Traveling Chautauqua  
full of funky Victorian couches and pitted  
floorboards, where double whiskeys  
flew down my throat, poured sloppy  
and delivered free by the waitress  
who called my name — me too blind to see." . . .*

*Lyon Street* evokes the loveliness of the Bay area as well as the grittiness of the jazz clubs, pool rooms, bars, and bookstores that nurtured Zegans' youth, and asks us to consider: Is who we are also where we've been and who we will be?