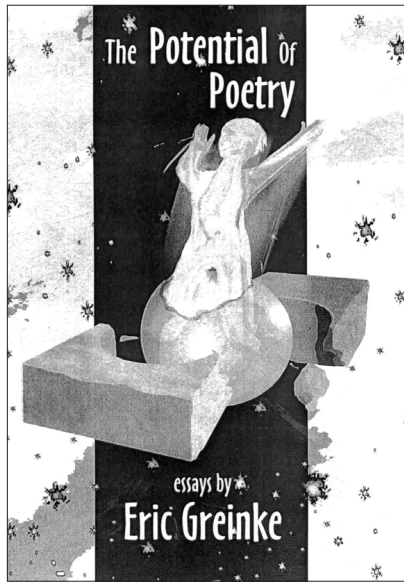


The Potential of Poetry



The Potential of Poetry ,
Essays by Eric Greinke
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*review by Irene Koronas, Poetry Editor
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“...Poems have a life of their own. Once they’re released into the world, they no longer belong to the poet. Probably they never did. They live on, like the mythical Amaranth.”

Greinke presents seven essays for the potential of poetry. In the fifth essay he talks about his relationship with Donald Hall and the small press, which spurred a conversation between the two, during the 1970’s about,

“...poets in general were poor judges of their own work...”: “The question on the small press literary scene is whether Don Hall, as the new Poet Laureate, will do anything for the small press. My guess is that he will not. Our values are different. Spontaneity is greatly valued by small press editors, writers and poets, as a general rule, formalists notwithstanding. We have a tradition too, but our major poets were and still are of the wild kind. We are firmly in the Whitmanic tradition, as advanced by Ginsberg and Bukowski. We are street poets, or surrealists, or even anti-poets. We can be experimental, or conceptual. We are non-commercial. We are non-traditional...”

Greinke’s clarity lets the reader in to what is being said, making it possible to apply, or at least, relate to these small ruminations, essays in support of the many poets who are considered, “small press.”

“open-mindedness of poets should at least be equivalent to that of musicians and painters. It is imperative for the growth of the poetic art that poets become more tolerant and eclectic readers, in deed. For the academic ‘palefaces’ reading and publishing in the independent small press is essential if they are to avoid homogenization and repression of natural poetic impulses...”