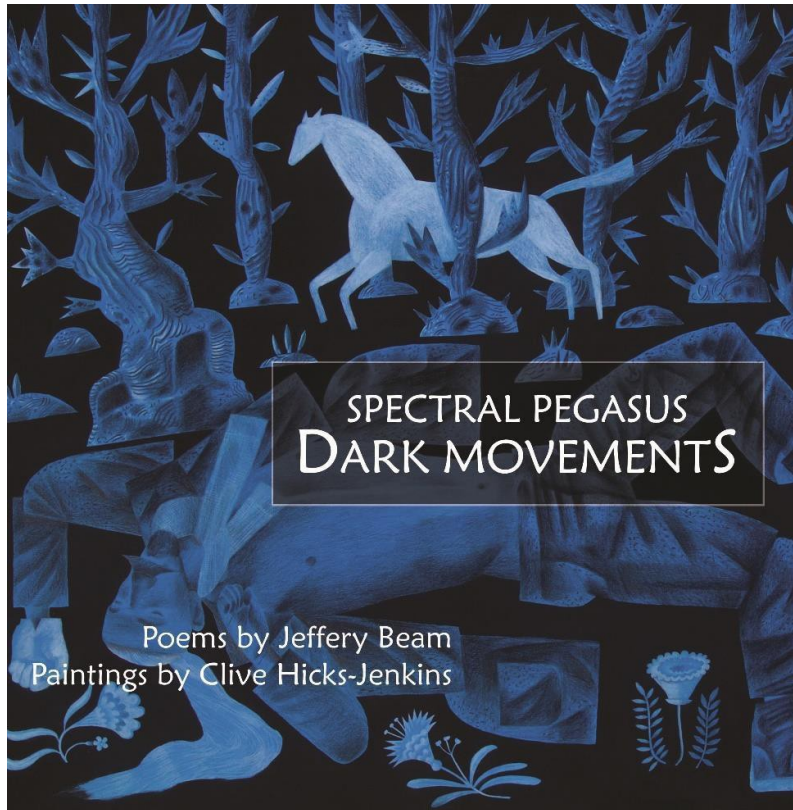


Reviews of [Spectral Pegasus / Dark Movements](#): Poems by Jeffery Beam — Paintings by Clive Hick-Jenkins:



\$21.95 USD — ISBN 978-0-9989293-1-6

92 pages, 8.5 x 0.2 x 8.5 inches, 15 poems, 1 song, 3 essays,  
21 full page color illustrations, additional full-color vignettes, full-color end pages

Available worldwide. You may purchase online at retailers such as Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble,  
or request through your local bookstore

Booksellers: Please contact your distributor or Ingram (800-937-8000, [thinkbooks@ingramcontent.com](mailto:thinkbooks@ingramcontent.com))

An intense “marvelous and fateful game”, a six-month blogosphere collaboration between a Welsh painter Clive Hicks- Jenkins and an American poet Jeffery Beam, *Spectral Pegasus / Dark Movements* details a Hero’s journey through death, resurrection, psychological and spiritual trials and revelations into redemptive vision. Originating loosely in the ancient Welsh folk Wassailing tradition of the Mari Lwyd involving a skeletal mare, and the death of the painter’s father, painter and poet marry their impressive powers of myth and dream into individual but sympathetically resonant designs—inward landscapes wrought startlingly real—at turns plain and flamboyant, poignant and joyful. “The grace of these paintings and poems is in their wildness”, fashioned ultimately by Hicks-Jenkins’ and Beam’s compassionate confrontation with dark forces, reviving forgotten knowing and healing powers, as pilgrim/hero meets Horse/Man, thus “patching up some almighty tear in the fabric of heaven” and the searching self.

One major essay by British art blogger Sarah Parvin on Beam’s poetry, the story behind Clive Hicks-Jenkins’ two Mari Lwyd painting sequences *The Mare’s Tale* (2001) and the subject of this book *Dark Movements* (2015), and the collaboration that took place January – June 2015. The book also presents reprints of reviews on Hicks- Jenkins’ work by Mary-Ann Constantine and Claire Pickard that appeared in the Welsh press at the time of the exhibition.

The first 500 copies purchased include a free CD recording of all 15 of the poems read by the author, and a newly-penned “antique” ballad performed by Beam and singer/musician Mary Rocap. (Details inside book.)

## From reviews of *Spectral Pegasus / Dark Movements*

### [A Hero’s Tale Inspired by an Artistic Collaboration:](#)

Interview with **Frank Stasio** on WUNC-FM NPR’s *The State of Things*, March 12, 2019

## [Spectral Pegasus/Dark Movements: an ekphrastic collaboration by poet Jeffery Beam and artist Clive Hicks-Jenkins](#)

Interview with *Lorette C. Luzajic*, editor, *The Ekphrastic Review*

The evening at MoMA was lovely. From where I was sitting I could see how attentive the audience were, and there were little sighs and quivers running through them in response to the readings. Jeffery, although I've heard you read in recordings and in filmed footage, nothing had quite prepared me for how mesmerising you are, how nuanced and what a complete performer, when experienced first-hand. It was wonderful.

—Email from painter **Clive Hick-Jenkins** after the celebratory reading May 2019 in Wales

The 'Dark Movements' toy theatre was dusted off last night and made an appearance at Jeffery Beam's poetry reading event at MoMA Mach. Organised by Diane from the wonderful Pen'rallt Bookshop, the room was packed with an appreciative audience. Jeffery did not disappoint. He reads and sings with the greatest skill. Everyone visibly moved.

—Instagram posting from painter **Clive Hick-Jenkins** after the celebratory reading May 2019 in Wales

When we finally got back to the bookshop on Wednesday evening ... I spent some time reading your poems. They work so very well on the page. They are very different when read aloud...the audience felt saturated by the words, the images, the 'electricity' of the event as a whole...I do believe that the quality of the work will stand up after the event, read quietly and personally, by those individuals who will, I believe, eventually come to the book for its own qualities. *Spectral Pegasus / Dark Movements* is a powerful statement in words and pictures. You should be justifiably proud to have brought it into being. Thank you for inviting us to be part of it.

—Email from Diane Bailey, owner of **Pen'rallt Gallery Bookshop**, Machynlleth, Wales, co-host with MOMA-Wales of the Welsh celebratory reading, May 2019

When *Spectral Pegasus* arrived, I needed to set it aside, knowing from a cursory look, I knew I would need time to penetrate its dark beauty. Then I flew off to Italy, returned to Pascoli and the madness of my online magazine, and finally today got to spend some hours in the other world of it. Other worlds of a great myth. Those ancient horsemen and their shamans. The *Brhadaranyaka Upanishad's* horse sacrifice. The reindeer shamans of Siberia. Maria Sabina, all those *Technicians of the Sacred*. It's clear where you come from, beyond and before the biography. Both you and Clive -- self and shadow, shadow and self: How perfectly his die Brücke blues match your midnights. And how your father's death foretells your own -- that clew's thematic running through all those "shrouds and shreds" and *Veil*; down from Jordan; the recursive *Big Bang* ("I am the tale telling itself again"), to "the last exile of the common man" and that Whitmanic flood of *Birth*. It is all as Campbell says in the epigraph and as you readers point out after. It is all wonderful.

—Email from poet **John Martone**, May 2019

Phenomenal, phenomenal, heartening reading and terrific time afterwards.

—Email from **Welsh poet David [Jones] Annwn**, after attending the Welsh reading, May 2019

Jeffery Beam has long been a devotee of beauty, and his *Spectral Pegasus / Dark Movements* is one of the prettiest books to appear in recent years. This poetry collection is another in the realm of the book-length series of poems, and is also an addition to the world of ekphrastic poetry. It is a book of free verse responses to paintings--and since the art is intricately tied together in a series, naturally the poems are as well. And internally they are held together, elaborate parallelism often binding the lines, so there is a kind of macrocosmic and microcosmic structure in the form. *Spectral Pegasus / Dark Movements* display a different way of thinking about what a book of poetry is, and it strikes me that the book is determined to create its own audience--that is, to create the reader's understanding and sympathy for the project--through what is included. Short excerpts from Lindsay Clarke and Joseph Campbell serve as a kind of preface, nudging us in a desired direction. The poems and art form the core of the book, but they are followed by three essays about the poetry and the art. So the book itself teaches how to read it, and also how to look at the art by Clive Hicks-Jenkins... Then there's a whole other dimension to the book in which music and poems join in the CD. It's an interesting and rare way of looking at the making of a poetry collection, and one that must have taken a lot of love and care.

—Novelist and poet **Marly Youmans**, on her blog, [The Palace at 2 AM](#), June 2019

It seems a bit self-serving to say much about this book when I've shared Jeffery's magical comments on my work... but there is a striking issue I may safely discuss without accusation: that is, I think many poets will look at this lovely volume and find in it new ways of thinking about presenting their work in book form. And it's not just because there's an accompanying CD available. And yes, the book is visually ravishing, unlike most poetry books, but it also lets others illumine the works within by introduction and essays. Jeffery doesn't have to simply rely on the poems and art to tell a story but also lets us overhear the thoughts of some rarified readers and viewers. So we have a sort of little library between two covers with poems, introduction, essays, CD, and art: it appeals to eye, to ear, to touch.

—Novelist and poet **Marly Youmans**, on her blog, [Lady of Word of Mouth](#), November 2019

I am delighted for Jeffery that the poetry reading was so incredibly well received, and I am happy that this chapter of your artistic

pilgrimage reached such a captivating and celebratory end in Machynlleth yesterday. Here's to the many new journeys your *Pegasus* is yet to take you on in America and who knows where else?! Jung wrote, "As far as we can discern, the sole purpose of human existence is to kindle a light in the darkness of mere being." I am pleased to write and tell you both that this is what Jeffery's poetry did for me yesterday evening and may he long continue to bless people with his words.

—Email from art blogger and *Spectral Pegasus* essayist, **Sarah Parvin**, after attending the Welsh reading, May 2019

"I turn the corner of my dream and there you are," Hillsborough-based poet and songsmith Jeffery Beam writes in *Spectral Pegasus / Dark Movements*, a new book pairing Welsh artist Clive Hicks-Jenkins's paintings with Beam's responses in verse. Though the line occurs in the context of a collaborative work about the Mari Lwyd, a wassailing tradition in Wales, it also captures the feeling of Beam's poetry in general, with its songful beauty and sense of dreamlike encounters, in nature and other mirrors, with oneself. Stark with rich blues and reds, at once erotic and reverent, Hicks-Jenkins's equine paintings alternate with Beam's poems in a sensuous rhythm of image and sound (especially when you play the accompanying CD). A long series of launch events begins ... where Beam will be joined by folk singer Mary Rocap.

—Poet, critic, and *Indy Week Arts Editor* **Brian Howe**, choosing Triangle NC readings as [Featured Events](#), March 2019

There is an unwritten rule somewhere that reviewers are not to have favorites and I am a supreme breaker of that rule. I have my favorites but I do not usually say who they are even though some of my readers will say that it is obvious. Speaking of poetry, Jeffery Beam holds a special place in my heart and I make no secrets about loving his poetry. However, it has been quite a few years since I had something new by him to read. Even better than that is a CD that comes with Beam's new collection which is intense and knocked me over. I had almost forgotten how much I love the language we speak and write with. *Spectral Pegasus / Dark Movements* is, quite simply, glorious and it could not have arrived at a better time. I have always been the kind of a guy who turns to poetry when things are not so good (that does not mean that I don't read poetry when times are good). Not only are these poems special, they come with wonderful illustrations thanks to Welsh painter Clive Hicks-Jenkins. Beam and Hicks-Jenkins take us on a wonderful journey— a hero's journey that goes through "death, resurrection, psychological and spiritual trials, and revelations into redemptive vision." The places where we stop form a microcosm of our own society. We begin with the death of the painter's father, we have two narrations going on at the same time—the poetic narrative and the visual narrative and these come together in myth and dreams. There is something feral about the poems which is probably the result of confronting with dark forces and bringing back knowledge that had fallen away over time. To know is to heat and to heal is to look within oneself remembering that pain is there to remind us that something is not right. Pain, be it mental or physical comes to guide us to where it can be alleviated. "The dead have died a thousand times / for they have died in me / I climb the signal tower each time I bend my knee..." This collection has twenty- one full color illustrations, sixteen poems, and illuminating essays by Sarah Parvin, Mary-Ann Constantine, and Claire Pickard. From what we read we are able to get a vision of hope. William Rossetti reminds us that we will not be waylaid by those who came before us. We must look to our alienation and face it head on if we are to heal. We can renew ourselves and our world. We see that in the poetry and its illustrations here and we are reminded that the early drawings on the walls of caves was communication back then and it is the lack of communication that forces us into isolation. I could feel a sense of renewal as I read. We are also reminded that art began in the caves of the Paleolithic world and in those caves ritual, religion, painting and song were born. By its very nature this is a provocative book and we need to remember that the purpose of literature was to provoke. Ever since I read *Frankenstein*, Mary Shelley has provoked me to understand that we all read differently. I found a sense of rebirth with this book and the way it sees modern suffering." Of course it helps that Beam is a wordsmith and writes beautifully and that Hicks-Jenkins draws from his inner being. I always find poetry difficult to review because it appeals to the emotions and it forms a bond between writer and reader. What I see is just that; my perception of the magical verses that Beam writes and the stunning artwork of Hicks-Jenkins becomes mine and I am not sure that I want to share what came to me from what I read and experienced here. I totally fell in love with "The Big Bang: River Jordan" and was amazed at the research done to try to find out what this poem is all about. I lived on a kibbutz in Israel in the Jordan Valley and I thought my knowledge of the area was good if not perfect. I was surprised to see how much I did not before. "I am the Bastard Angel and the Virgin Devil / I am Again and Then and Was and Ever". In closing, let me just say that I am overwhelmed as often happens when reading something new. Here I read of old ideas clad in semi-modern or modern finery and they are very different now but then so are we. I urge you to read and savor what is here. Think of this book like wine— it gets better as it ages.

—Gay Jewish activist, writer, and teacher Amos Lassen on his blog [Reviews by Amos Lassen](#)

I was immediately struck by the power of both the poems and the paintings in this beautifully produced book. Unlike most verse and artwork these days, this collaboration of your related visions plunges deep into the magma that underpins the surface of our lives and finds new form for what you have discovered there. The book put me in closer touch with what James Hillman called the poetic basis of mind, which is the source of all true creativity, and I am glad and grateful to have it close to hand.

—British novelist, **Lindsay Clarke**, in email to Beam, March 2019

It was an epic far-reaching performance. You and Mary should record ballads together. The textures of your voices make for such a complimentary mix.

—Novelist **Allan Gurganus** upon attending the inaugural reading at the Orange County Public Library, Hillsborough, NC, in an email to Beam, March 2019

What a beautiful volume to savour! I've been listening to your online reading with great pleasure...

—Welsh poet **David Jones [Anwnn]**, in email to Beam, March 2019

Jeffery Beam's haunting poems in *Spectral Pegasus*, inspired by the paintings of Clive Hicks-Jenkins about the Welsh tradition/legend of

the Mari Lwyd, unflinchingly record the poet's travel to the liminal edges of identity and psyche, where the encounter with darkness and death becomes transformed into rebirth and resurrection. For both artist and poet, this journey recalls the loss of so many gay men of their generation: in the first and title poem Beam writes, "The dead have died a thousand times/for they have died in me," but then bravely says to the terrifying death-horse, the "Mirror Horse of Heaven", "Ride me you'll not break my spirit...Veil your wings I know they are there." In the poems that follow, Beam employs masterful language and images as he draws from folk tradition, spiritual writings, and Jungian insights to trace both a personal and universal struggle from darkness to light. This is also a physically beautiful and well-designed book in a generous square format, where Hicks-Jenkins' paintings are reproduced in color and the poems are carefully typeset, encouraging reflection by the reader. Although I am female and straight, I have been deeply moved by Clive Hicks-Jenkins' work over the years, and now by Jeffery Beam's poems and thought process. As the author of a biography of Bishop Gene Robinson, the first openly-gay man to be ordained bishop in the Anglican Communion, I am well aware of the personal and spiritual struggles that so many LGBTQ+ people have undergone. Reading a book, therefore, that describes a path from despair, grief, fear, and darkness to resurrection and light is not only welcome and hopeful, but an invitation to us all to enter a place suffused with the gentleness, beauty and sensitivity of both author and artist.

—Artist and publisher **Beth Adams** of Phoenicia Publications, Montreal, on [Amazon](#), March 2020

It seems to me that you have caught fire with these poems and that they burn with a numinous intensity. You convey in radical images, juxtapositions "The Truth behind all seeming" and do so with what I can only describe as an almost mystical certitude – at home in the supernatural. The kinship with Blake, Yeats, Rilke, (Crane?) is natural, necessary even. Your reading, singing of the poems is marvelous, as always, in the tradition of the troubadours. And what a fruitful collaboration -- these arresting, oneiric paintings married to your vatic verses. Perhaps you have entered the visionary company of love?

—**Thomas Nixon**, Humanities Reference Librarian, UNC-Chapel Hill, in email to Beam, July 2019

Spectral is a stunning collaboration; totally beautiful design by Joy. I'll cherish it.

—Poet and publisher **Kyle Schlesinger** of Cuneiform Press, postcard October 2019

I, being a big fan of Jeffery Beam's work, was immediately taken by what seems to be a "return to the alchemical". His recent works have very much been of this world, but this collection lives somewhere adjacent to it. This adjacent world is dim and surreal, illustrated beautifully by the dark and often blue-tinted works of the Welsh painter Clive Hicks-Jenkins. Together the poet and painter seem to be following independent threads that, ultimately, converge, and as they do, illuminate all that came ahead of it, moments before it is destroyed and rebuilt in the shadow of its former self. Each read is influenced and colored by the one before it, giving each session a unique feel and experience. This collection flows like an underground river, smooth, and freeing until it grabs you the collar, pulling you to stops it decides, before releasing you back into the current to carry on, wondering if that stop was imagined, knowing that, even if it was, the leftover and lingering effects of it will stay with you throughout the read, and in my case, for weeks after. These stopping moments often come in the form of shorter poems like "The Grim Reaper Appears as a Night-Flower" and "The Citadel", giving room to breathe, then hyperventilate, between some of the amazing longer poems like "The Quickening" and "Flowering Skin", which begins with a quote from William Blake: "Thou perceivest the Flowers put forth their precious Odours,/ And none can tell how from so small a center comes such sweet, / Forgetting that within that Center Eternity expands". This quote seems to be a key to the collection. Like in quantum mechanics, the closer you look into an object, the more you discover about it. As one looks into the individual poems and painting of this collection, they shed even more light on the whole, and onto yourself as well. *Spectral Pegasus / Dark Movements* will stay with you, it will present itself to you throughout your days and nights. It is, without a doubt, the best new collection I have read all year. I must note that this review will be added to and amended once I listen to the accompanying CD (Jeffery Beam reading/singing, accompanied by Mary Rocap). If the CD is like any of Beam's other recordings, I know that I will absolutely adore.

—Poet, filmmaker, and publisher **Kristopher Biernatsky**, unpublished review, 2019

When I first started writing in 2010, it was the work of Jeffery Beam that really ignited the possibilities of poetry for me, specifically his Jargon Society book *Visions of Dame Kind*. His newest book *Spectral Pegasus / Dark Movements* (Kin Press) is one of the most breathtaking and exciting things I've read in years.

—Poet, filmmaker, and publisher **Kristopher Biernatsky**, [The Poetry Question blog](#), January 9, 2020

Thank you so much for this beautiful book – poems, paintings, CD. The CD is itself a great discovery; hearing you read the poems adds so much.

—Poet, editor, and publisher Ed Foster of *Talisman* magazine.

We tried to get our friend Marjory Wurn, an obsessive reader, to create a list of a dozen or so books she had read and valued during the past year. After much delay, she said she couldn't but could construct a list of books scattered about her reading chair. "This would be pretty much the same as what you asked for, since these are the books I've come back to, again and again." "All right," we answered, tho disappointed. Here is the list she gave us, books Marjory found scattered about her reading chair. [This list includes *Spectral Pegasus: Dark Movements*.]

—[New and Recommended](#), *Talisman* magazine 48, 2020

The Welsh tradition of Mari Lwyd (sounds like "mary loyd") hearkens back to ancient Roman and Celtic veneration of horses. According to Sarah Parvin, a Jungian-trained psychologist who blogs at The Curious One, "the cult of Mari centres round a mare's skull bedecked in

sheet and ribbons, which is carried from door to door to mark the passing of the longest nights of midwinter. The Mari is accompanied by a band of mummers, in the guise of the dead, who ... seek admission into the houses of the living. Upon gaining entry, food and drink are enjoyed by all and blessings bestowed for the coming year." Welsh artist Clive Hicks-Jenkins recalls his father being incredibly scared as a child when the Mari Lwyd came around; a series of paintings Hicks-Jenkins subsequently created serve, Parvin says, as a "personal meditation on the death of his father and an elegy to the friends and colleagues he had lost during his theatre career to the AIDS epidemic." Now, American poet Jeffery Beam ([jefferybeam.com](http://jefferybeam.com)), who lives in Hillsborough, North Carolina, with his husband, has collaborated with the artist to produce a book of mesmerizing poems about, as the writer told me in email correspondence, "the transformation of masculine and horse energy into ... something else." Both writer and artist take American dancer Jordan Morley as their muse. *Spectral Pegasus / Dark Movements* includes fifteen poems, one song, three essays (including the one by Parvin) and nearly two dozen paintings. In one sense, the Mari Lwyd is Halloween-frightening. "I am Pegasus Spectral / Pegasus Reversed," the poet writes. "I am your nightmare-longing toward dust / Be not afraid. / Stop shaking / Every funeral prophesies resurrection...." "Mari Lwyd having never spoken your name / your name becalms me / Right hand to heart left hand gloved closed holding a secret / Void's origin waiting to be opened / for you as you are for me my stalwart." A secret? Two, actually. In "Pegasus," the words have a particular resonance: "Liberty and Love the two Great Secrets / Making the Divine Mind smile / Making Death forget himself and sing / Paradise regained / Without contraries is no progression."

—Journalist and Butte College Philosophy Professor, **Dan Barnett**, in the Chico Enterprise-Record (review archived on his blog [Musable](http://Musable)), October 2019

This is the most beautiful astounding book ... Am reading "I Dreamed a Dream", about your process in the collaboration and how your poetic voice breaking through from the deepest springs of your beginnings. I'm stunned by this. I'm so moved. I hardly know what to say. Here I find the young poet I met and celebrated feeling his creative river flowing powerfully in Ander Hills years. Rushing river carrying him forward. No wonder you over the moon about it and your collaboration with Clive Hicks-Jenkins. This Mari Lwyd tradition. Death and Rebirth. The oldest myths there are. I too would have been paralyzed with fear as a child. His art is just astounding, compelling, Riveting. I can't stop looking at it. ... I know that I will be absorbing this over time. What a beautiful book that supports your poetry. A magical collaboration. And I see Joseph Campbell's from *Hero with A Thousand Faces* words are here. I'm going to be reading the beginning of the book about how all this came to be but the art is just fabulous. The collaboration must've been a deeply spiritual event. You know I'll be pouring over it to grasp it and understand what is happening here and listen to your voice. ... This is a de force for you. For Clive.

—North Carolina artist **Sue Anderson**, in email June 2019

Thank you for *Spectral Pegasus*. It brings me so much joy today. I've spent a fair amount of time with your poetry over the past 6 months, and somehow this newest book has surprised me. I am awe-struck, and can't say much more right now. These poems exist in a realm of their own.

—Composer **Tony Solitro**, in email February 2019



***Spectral Pegasus / Dark Movements back cover blurbs***

"And so, before the totally singular manifestation of this visionary work, I humbly call on William Rossetti, in the 19th century, who said, in his awe before the *Illuminated Books of Blake*: The genius 'is not forestalled by predecessors, nor to be classed with contemporaries, nor to be replaced by known or readily surmisable successors.'" —Poet Kent Johnson. Author of *Homage to the Last Avant-Garde* and *I Once Met: A Partial Memoir of the Poetry Field*.

"After Postmodern dismembering, now horribly enacted in the political sphere, comes hope where alienation is addressed and danced into healing by body, ecstasy and myth. The result in this superb work is a shamanic re-membering that renews self, consciousness, being and world. *Spectral Pegasus / Dark Movements* is an extraordinary and numinous collaboration between a poet and painter that invokes the archaic roots of art itself in the Paleolithic caves where ritual, religion, painting and song were born. Uniting word and paint by reconnecting with pre-Christian rites in Europe, Native American heritage and the intense participation in the collaborative must made possible by the internet, *Spectral Pegasus / Dark Movements* is soul food; it shapes dark energies into the emerging of new being. Archetypal, Jungian and visionary; this book's amazing art is an inspirational treatment for modern suffering." —Dr. Susan Rowland Professor, Pacifica Graduate Institute. Author of *Remembering Dionysus: Revisioning Psychology and Literature in C.G. Jung and James Hillman* and *Jung: A Feminist Revision*.

"I can think of no other poet than the true bard, Jeffery Beam, who so elegantly, so riskily, layers into his language plain-speak and grandeur. *Spectral Pegasus* marshals with palpable force the library that is Beam's heart, the garden that is his imagination, distilled through the maestro's ear and the provocateur's wit. He folds language into an entirely new province, something all its own, wholly original, yet gathering the tribes and kin of its influence, of its own making. When he writes in 'The Quickening,' 'My daily urge walks a land without similarity teeming,' I can only rejoinder with Amen. This is a gorgeous book by a simply splendid poet." —Former North Carolina Poet Laureate Joseph Bathanti. Author of *Half of What I Say Is Meaningless*, *The 13th Sunday after Pentecost*, and co-editor of the forthcoming *The Anthology of Black Mountain College Poetry*.

"Beam's is a startled and startling, all-body, all-spirit response to the gift and terror that rode roughshod and wondrous into his creative life like an annunciation, in the form of Hicks-Jenkins's numinous, luminous horse." —Poet Damian Walford Davies. Head, School of English, Communication and Philosophy, Cardiff University. Author of *Alabaster Girls* and *Docklands*.



POETRY  
\$21.95 USD  
kinpress.org

