

Autumn House Press



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Dear Friends,

Autumn House Press is thrilled to present *Practicing the Truth*, the 2014 Poetry Prize winner, written by Ellery Akers. The title was selected by Alicia Ostriker, who says of the book:

With the passion and determination of an abuse survivor, the exploring mind of a naturalist, and the soul energy of a language-loving poet, Akers gives us not one truth but layer on layer of overlapping truths. ‘You ask what saved me,’ Akers writes, and the whole book is an answer. In one poem, a tree speaks to its seedling: ‘Open your hands, now.’ In another, a leaf hosts a wasp egg, and ultimately

*The wasp breaks out
and veers into the world. The gall stays on the leaf.
Only a hole remains where the wasp bit its way out.
The leaf is beautiful, in its way.
It's got this mad cathedral at its center.*

Are we not all like that leaf?—Alicia Ostriker

The collection will be officially released on January 1st, 2015 and retails for \$17.95. Please look for the title on our website, Small Press Distribution, or Amazon. We are so excited to share this book with you!

About the Author: Ellery Akers is a writer, artist, and naturalist living on the Northern California coast. Her previous collection, *Knocking on the Earth*, was named a Best Book of the Year by the *San Jose Mercury News*. She is also the author of a children’s novel, *Sarah’s Waterfall*. Akers has won eleven national awards, including the Poetry International Prize, the John Masefield Award, the Paumanok Poetry Award, and *Sierra* magazine’s Nature Writing Award. Her poetry has been featured in the *New York Times Magazine*, on National Public Radio and American Life in Poetry, and has appeared in such journals as *The American Poetry Review*, *Poetry*, and *The Sun*. She received a Silver Medal from the Independent Publisher Book Awards and won the San Francisco Book Festival Award in Poetry for *Practicing the Truth*, as well as fellowships from The MacDowell Colony, Ucross Foundation, and Headlands Center for the Arts. She has taught writing at Cabrillo College and at conferences and currently teaches private poetry workshops. An award-winning artist as well, Akers exhibits her artwork in museums and galleries nationally.

If you have questions, or would like to interview or arrange a visit with the author, please don’t hesitate to contact Christine Stroud, our Editor in Chief: cstroud@autumnhouse.org.

Sincerely,

Giuliana Certo, Managing Editor