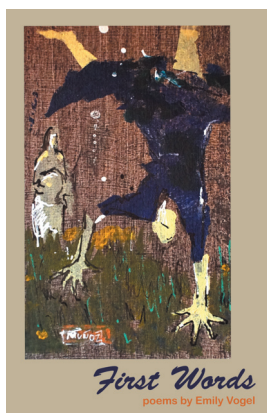


Press Release

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NYQ Books™ announces the publication of *First Words* by Emily Vogel



June 5, 2015 - New York, NY - NYQ Books™ is proud to announce the publication of *First Words* by Emily Vogel. From summer's blonde height of swarming sunlight, through autumns gentle falling, and into the dark spell of winter of 2012, Emily Vogel both endured and reveled in the pregnancy which brought her first child in early December of that year. The poems in this book trace the trajectory of the pregnant months and into the first year of her daughter, Clare Sophia's life. Some of these speak from underneath the tenuous surfaces of water where post-partum tendencies ensue, and some from the overwhelming joy of having given birth, as in relation to her husband, who gave the seed for the blessing of life, and also in the transformation of the new mother-skin. These poems are about a shifting in perspective and identity, and about growth and renewal, both in the world, and within the self.

José Antonio Rodríguez, author of *The Shallow End of Sleep*

Emily Vogel's gift in *First Words* is an impressive one: the ability to weld the cosmic with the spiritual with the domestic and make it all vibrate with a muscular lyricism. In this collection, we inhabit the cadences of the self in all its entanglements—romantic, familial, social, historical—and know ourselves

better for it. Here, every poem is essential.

Tom Trivisano, editor of *Words in Air*

Emily Vogel's poems move as easily and naturally as breathing, pivoting between the everyday and the uncanny on a series of unexpected turns of phrase that makes each line a fresh adventure. This fluent shuttling between high and low, between varied and contrasting states of being, creates an arresting series of luminous—or even numinous—surprises.

Adele Kenny, Poetry Editor, *Tiferet Journal*

The poems in Emily Vogel's *First Words* do what Vogel always does best: they look at the world from unexpected angles and shake up her readers' expectations. Vogel works from a deep emotional center with lyric precision and rich narrative depiction. Gritty, gutsy, and infinitely vulnerable, Vogel never completely closes the door on any poem; instead, she leaves all the doors slightly ajar, thus creating a new resonances, lit sparks that don't go out when the reading is finished.

Emily Vogel's poetry, reviews, and essays have appeared in numerous journals, most recently in *Omniverse*, *Ragazine*, *The Paterson Literary Review*, *Lips*, *Maggy*, *Luna Luna*, *Lyre Lyre*, *The San Pedro River Review*, *City Lit Rag*, *2 Bridges Review*, *Contemporary Literary Horizons*, and *Tiferet*, among several others. She is the author of five chapbooks, most recently *Digressions on God* (Main Street Rag Press, author's choice series, 2012). She is also the author of a full-length collection of poetry, *The Philosopher's Wife* (Chester River Press, 2011) and a collaborative book, *West of Home*, with her husband, the poet and essayist Joe Weil (Blast Press, 2013). She has been twice nominated for a pushcart prize, and is the recipient of the Academy of American Poets Prize at Binghamton University, 2008. She is the poetry editor of *Ragazine*, and teaches writing at SUNY Oneonta and Hartwick College. She lives with her husband, Joe Weil, and their two recent editions: children Clare and Gabriel.



photo by Joe Weil

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.