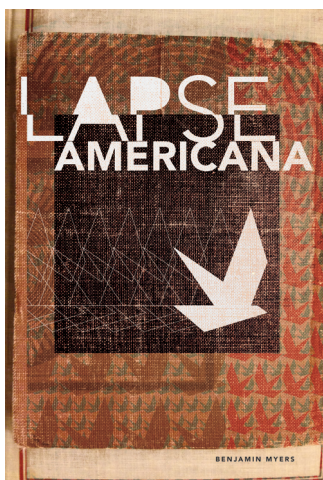


# Press Release

For Release: Immediately Contact: Raymond Hammond, Editor; 917.843.8825; rhammond@nyquarterly.org  
 Publication Information: 6 x 9 in.; 120 Pages; ISBN: 978-1-935520-71-9  
 Library of Congress Control Number: 2013932935 Publication Date: March 15, 2013  
 Website: <http://www.nyqbooks.org/author/benjaminmyers>  
 Suggested Retail: 14.95 USD; 15.95 CAN; 8.95 GBR; 10.50 EUR; 14.95 AUS  
 Availability: Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Powell's, Small Press Dist. To the Trade: Ingram Distribution, SPD

## NYQ Books™ announces the publication of *Lapse Americana* by Benjamin Myers



March 15, 2013 - New York, NY - NYQ Books™ is proud to announce the release of Benjamin Myers' second full-length collection of poems, *Lapse Americana*. The twin ravens, Thought and Memory, of Norse myth are reborn as American crows to fly an interweaving pattern of remembering and forgetting through the pages of *Lapse Americana*. Born out of the poet's childhood during the Pax Americana and situated within the war and economic lapse of the new century, these poems explore memory and amnesia, faith and doubt, presence and absence. They are rooted in rural, working class experience as well as in the poetic traditions of America, Europe, and China. By turns formal and jazzy, confessional and coy, these poems speak of the universal by focusing on the particular, insisting with simultaneous emphasis upon the value of remembering and of embracing forgetfulness.

"Memory is the axis these splendidly evocative poems revolve around, poems infused with a hard-won wisdom, melancholy and affection for the poet's childhood and young manhood in a prairie setting. Benjamin Myers delights and surprises us by his startling imagery and technical skill, but even more by a rueful awareness of the swiftness of time, and the wonder of the ordinary events that fill it."

—Lynne Sharon Schwartz, author of *Ruined by Reading*

"Benjamin Myers' work is bedrock American with county fair Ferris wheels and the drought cracked earth of Oklahoma always in the foreground; no glamor sugar coats the boredom of small town teenagers. His honesty scorches in his war poems, in his compassion for the woman left behind by a husband starting a second family, and in his own safe bookish life. We are all complicit in the life portrayed by this poetry, although few of us have the daring of his directness."

—Karen Swenson, winner of the National Poetry Series

"In *Lapse Americana*, Benjamin Myers proves the poem is ready to take on anything and everything, whether it's Dante, Oklahoma, the city dump, Virgil, the circus, the analog world, Anchises, divorce, the Alamo, racist friends, Paul Klee, Hamlet, harvest, and yes, even mannequins, knock-knock jokes, Odin, and head lice. Like Walt Whitman, Myers sees poetry as a democratic project, a celebratory endeavor that creates inclusion rather than exclusion. Myers' uncanny ability to merge accessibility with invention reminds me of fellow Oklahoman Woody Guthrie. Both Guthrie and Whitman would admire *Lapse Americana's* masterful mash up of aesthetics and ethics. Of one thing I'm certain—this poetic land was made for you and me."

—Dean Rader, Winner of the T.S. Eliot Prize

Benjamin Myers won the Oklahoma Book Award for Poetry for his first book, *Elegy for Trains*. His poems may be read in numerous literary journals, including *The New York Quarterly*, *Nimrod*, *Tar River Poetry*, *Borderlands*, *Salamander*, and the *Chiron Review*, as well as online in *Devil's Lake*, *DMQ Review*, *The Pedestal Magazine*, *Elimae*, *Poetrybay*, and elsewhere. He lives in Chandler, Oklahoma.

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.



photo by Amy Radcliffe