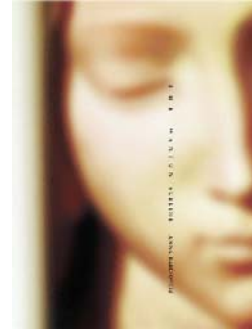


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The Wanton Sublime
A Florilegium of Whethers & Wonders
\$16.95 pb ISBN 1-932195-39-4

A Powerful and Poetic Answer to *The DaVinci Code*

A DARING INQUIRY INTO THE ESSENTIAL VIRGIN MARY

Dorset, VT, May 20, 2006: Tupelo Press proudly announces publication of Anna Rabinowitz's third volume of poetry, *THE WANTON SUBLIME: A Florilegium of Whethers and Wonders*, a book that investigates the Virgin Mary as woman, mother and chosen one.

Wildly imaginative, provocative and enthralling, this anthology of lyrics is composed as a series of excerpts from "ancient" texts and commentaries. Just as *The DaVinci Code* explores the possibility of a more earthly aspect to the divine story than that reported in the Gospels, so *The Wanton Sublime* casts its beam on the human concerns that spiral around the Virgin Mary. *The Wanton Sublime* examines Mary as woman and mother from a variety of historical vantage points. Most of the "historical" texts cited are imagined – though they have the weight of reality – and using them to deliver us into the mysteries surrounding this best-known and least-known of mothers, Rabinowitz wields her poetic pen like a new broom, sweeping out the myths and conceits that have evolved around Mary and presenting her to us as she was before she became an icon, placing her in time before she became timeless. Rabinowitz's eloquent, emotive poetry captures the person caught in the crises of conscience, of individuality, of feminism and femininity.

The Wanton Sublime revisits the issues of memory, narrative and truth Rabinowitz dealt with so movingly in her acclaimed *Darkling: A Poem* (Tupelo Press, 2001), recently transformed by American Opera Projects into a multi-media opera/theater work now slated for a European tour after a highly successful off-Broadway run.

Publisher's Weekly has already lavished praise on *The Wanton Sublime*: "Rabinowitz investigates the mysteries, myths and cultural accretions around the Virgin Mary...Mary becomes, in these rapt and provocative poems,

both a symbol of ecstatic transcendence and a focus for questions about gender and power,” and award-winning poet Claudia Rankine, known for her own powerful, multi-genre writing, calls it “Timely and important,” adding “*The Wanton Sublime* is a must-read.”

Anna Rabinowitz’s previous book, Darkling: A Poem, was recently transformed into a multi-media opera/ theater piece by American Opera Projects in NYC. Her first collection, At the Site of Inside Out, won the Juniper Prize. A recipient of a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts, Rabinowitz is the publisher and executive editor of American Letters & Commentary and is a vice-president of the Poetry Society of America.

The Wanton Sublime is distributed to the trade by Consortium Book Sales and Distribution www.cbsd.com.

Tupelo Press is an independent literary press, committed to giving voice to extraordinary new and established literary talent. It makes books that are unparalleled in production values, look and feel. The press has offices in Dorset, Vermont and Charlottesville, Virginia. Recent awards include three ForeWord Magazine prizes for the year’s best book of poetry, a Norma Farber Award from the Poetry Society of America for the year’s best first book of poetry, a Peace Corps Writers Award, and many others.

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