

BROKEN GLASS

How it glitters
on a ground between
two walls.

For now

light informs
how I feel the world.

I search for accuracy–
I love the light.

I am almost afraid to ask
who lives here.

Among the elegant phrases
there are silences.

This is not just in my mind.

I witness fatigue
I may never have felt.

Of this I have no doubt.

Is there anything I can do.

I have broken glass,
its edges
announcing themselves.

“Street literature” or broadsides began in the 16th century and continued until the mid-19th century as a type of printing of large printed sheets of paper, designed to be plastered onto walls. By the mid 19th century, the advent of newspapers and inexpensive novels resulted in the demise of the street literature broadside. Today broadsides have been taken over by many small presses and publishers as a fine art offshoot of their work.” Wikipedia

In celebration of **Poetry Month** and as part of a larger literary installation you can expect a new poem about the first of every month. Soon I’ll have a map with other locations where you can find other street poems, like geo-caching for poetry.

For more information about the local poetry scene—

The Lane Literary Guild: www.laneliteraryguild.org

The Oregon State Poetry Association: www.oregonpoets.org

Carter McKenzie’s poems have appeared in various publications, including *Chain*, *Fireweed*, *Raising Our Voices: an anthology of Oregon poets against the war*, and *Dona Nobis Pacem: Grant Us Peace*. She is the author of the chapbook *Naming Departure*, published by Traprock Books, and, with Jackie Melvin, co-editor of *Powder Monkey: Oregon Poems* by William Sweet. In 2007 she and three other poets founded the poetry collective Airlie Press, whose mission is to publish books of fine poetry by authors living in the Willamette Valley. Her book-length manuscript of poems, *Out of Refusal*, will be published by Airlie Press in November, 2010. Carter also leads writing workshops for middle and high school students in Eugene through Young Writers Association.

Founded in May 2007, Airlie Press is a nonprofit publishing collective dedicated to cultivating and sustaining fine contemporary poetry. Their intent is to produce beautiful and compelling books by exceptional poets; their mission is to offer Willamette Valley writers a local, shared work publishing alternative. Airlie Press currently consists of four poet members who share in the editorial and book production responsibilities of the press: Donna Henderson, Jessica Lamb, Carter McKenzie, and Anita Sullivan. All profits from the sale of members’ books go toward the production of new volumes of poetry. A call has gone out for manuscript submissions from prospective new members; for more information, see Airlie’s website, at www.arliepress.org.