

A LIMITED FIRST EDITION FROM NAWAKUM PRESS

A KEROSENE BEAUTY

Twelve Environmental Elegiacs

Poetry by Jane Hirshfield

Mezzotints by Holly Downing

ABOUT THE EDITION ~ *A Kerosene Beauty* is a *livre d'artiste*, an artist's book, where remarkable poetry and extraordinary mezzotints meet, carry equal weight, and interact on a hand crafted stage. Hirshfield's new and unpublished poems came first, a set of "elegiacs" addressing climate catastrophe and its felt consequence. These poems praise the beauty and mourn the loss of a fragile planet. Downing then drew inspiration from the poems for her images. Using the somewhat archaic, labor intensive printmaking process of the intaglio family, the mezzotint, known for its velvety blacks and the luxurious quality of its tones, she scraped on copper plate seven images reflective of her deeply personal response.

A Kerosene Beauty is 48 pages and measures 15" x 9¾" in landscape format. The typefaces are Monotype Bembo for the text and Perpetua Titling for display. Patrick Reagh cast the lead type and printed the books letterpress on his Heidelberg cylinder press. The papers are Rives BFK from France, St. Armand Linen from Canada, Slate Stone Leaf from Brazil, and Wheat Straw from Hook Paper in Indiana. The book is bound in Japanese black quarter cloth with actual stone leaf paper over boards, and commissioned paste paper on the back cover. It is housed in a custom wooden box crafted in Japan, with access to the book coming by means of a false bottom. Binding and paste papers are by Lisa Van Pelt. Published in an edition of 28 numbered copies, signed by the poet and artist. Inquire for pricing and availability.

ABOUT THE POET ~ Award-winning poet, essayist, and translator Jane Hirshfield is the author of eight books of poetry, including *The Beauty* (2015), long listed for the National Book Award, *Come, Thief* (2011), *After* (2006), shortlisted for England's T.S. Eliot Prize, and *Given Sugar, Given Salt* (2001), a finalist for the National Book Critics Award. Hirshfield's other honors include The Poetry Center Book Award, fellowships from the Guggenheim and Rockefeller Foundations, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Academy of American Poets, Columbia University's Translation Center Award, and (both twice) The California Book Award and the Northern California Book Reviewers Award. In 2012 she received the Donald Hall-Jane Kenyon Prize in American Poetry and was elected a chancellor of the Academy of American Poets. Hirshfield lives in Marin County, California.

ABOUT THE ARTIST ~ Holly Downing, painter, printmaker and teacher is a native Californian. She studied art history and studio art at the University of California, Santa Cruz and in 1972, shortly before graduating, made her first mezzotint engraving. Her printmaking studies continued at the Royal College of Art, London in 1973. Then in 1974 she received a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts to further study mezzotints. While in the UK she earned a M.A. from the Goddard College graduate program in Europe, and in 1980 returned to California with her husband, new baby, and a British Harry Roach etching press. Holly taught art for twenty-three years at the Santa Rosa Junior College and prior to that she taught at the University of California, Santa Cruz, San Francisco State University, and Brighton University, UK. Her paintings and mezzotints have been exhibited internationally and are in numerous museum collections.

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