



#### CONTACT

Christine Drawl Passager Books christine@passagerbooks.com www.passagerbooks.com

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# Passager Publishes Winner of National Poetry Prize for a Writer 70 or Older

Passager Books announces the upcoming publication of *The Village of New Ghosts*, by Winifred Hughes of Princeton, New Jersey. The book won Passager's Henry Morgenthau III Poetry Prize for a first book of poems by a poet 70 or older, the only prize of its kind in the United States. With this national prize, established in 2018, Passager continues its mission of bringing the compelling writing and insight of older people to the public.

The Village of New Ghosts addresses themes of loss, memory, time passing, and new perceptions. Hughes writes that now in her 70s, she is faced with "the confrontation of unimaginable loss. But there is also a sense of being an experienced writer, which comes with a freedom from youthful ambition or trying to build a career."

Grace Cavalieri, contest judge and former Maryland Poet Laureate, writes, "The task of 'the poet' is brilliantly fulfilled with sonics, richness, care. But where this book truly exceeds and excels is in creating a hologram of emotions, a reality we can enter, where aesthetics are crisp... I never wanted to stop reading."

A "reformed academic," Hughes teaches ecopoetry at the Watershed Institute in Pennington, NJ and is an avid birder, leading bird walks in local open spaces.

Awarded biennially, the Henry Morgenthau III First Book Poetry Prize includes \$3,000 and publication. The prize was named in memory of Henry Morgenthau III who published his first book of poems at age 99 and was transformed late in life by what he learned about himself by writing poetry. He inspired audiences young and old with his powerful readings and conversation until his death at age 101.

In its 34 years, Passager has shared the work of more than 1,500 writers, many in their 80s and 90s, in its 76 journal issues, 30-plus books, videos and podcasts. In doing so, this nonprofit press has gained a reputation for longevity in a field in which few magazines and journals last more than a handful of years.

The Village of New Ghosts is scheduled for release October, 2024.



photo by Alex Spar

Winifred (Winnie) Hughes is a reformed academic and active birder living in Princeton, NJ. Winnie comes from a "whole family of scribblers": her mother Josephine Nicholls Hughes was a poet, her father Riley Hughes, a novelist, and her three siblings, all writers, including her sister Hildred Crill, a poet who lives in Stockholm. Currently she teaches nature writing and ecopoetry at the Watershed Institute in Pennington, NJ, and leads many bird walks in the local open spaces. She is author of two prize-winning chapbooks, *Frost Flowers* (2019) and *Nine-Bend Bridge* (2015). *The Village of New Ghosts* is her first full-length collection of poetry.

Winnie is a longtime member of U.S. I Poets Cooperative, established in the 70s, dedicated to fostering new poets. She was married to the late Fred Spar; their two grown sons are Adam and Alex Spar.

### **PRAISE**

"The task of 'the poet' is brilliantly fulfilled with sonics, structure, detail, richness and care. But where this book truly exceeds and excels is in creating a hologram of emotions, a reality we can enter, where aesthetics are crisp and clear enough to create a new paradigm. Poetics that bring emotional worlds into existence have to be held in place with mastery. Someone is obviously in charge of this work. Someone is in control of its precise syntax and beautiful heart. I never wanted to stop reading."

#### Grace Cavalieri

Henry Morgenthau III Poetry Prize Judge & author of *The Long Game* 

"There is a moment in our life that we know deep within ourselves, yet we ask will it be 'lost or more itself' if we write it down? Only Winifred Hughes asks such questions in her breathtakingly expansive yet focused book. Stand by the water, ask 'What does the water remember / as it slides in and out of itself'? She suggests an answer, not the answer, but one along with others that you will not be able to shake off."

#### **David Sten Herrstrom**

Author of Light as Experience and Imagination from Paleolithic to Roman Times

In Hughes' work we enter into a stunning linguistic and emotional landscape of give and take, of push and pull, each step forward a constant realignment of understanding of nature and history, of temporality itself. "How can I lose what has not been?" Hughes writes. And "Will I simply step out of / chronology?" The Village of New Ghosts moves brilliantly by way of questioning. There is a hesitation, a shifting back and forth between the known and the unknowable, what can be reached and that which one, despite all odds, continues moving towards. Everything "still so familiar, yet so estranged."

### EJ Colen

Author of What Weaponry and The Green Condition

# IN THE VILLAGE OF NEW GHOSTS

MENG CHIAO

Have you lost your way there, so new

and unfamiliar without me?

Does it have streets and houses?

Are there streetlights or is light forbidden?

Are you lonely or is it overcrowded?

Is it strange to you as this place

is to me—the lanes we walked together

not really noticing how narrow they were,

how they blurred into a maze,

or how many doors there were to open

with nothing behind them,

buildings with nothing inside.

I walk them now in a sort of daze, astonished

to discover the present amid the past,

seasons blurring into one long seasonless tunnel,

twilight indistinct, though nothing much has changed.

Sometimes I feel superimposed on someplace else, exactly the same.

Sometimes I hear footsteps, hesitant as mine.

Will you follow at whatever distance

if I don't look back?

## ORDERING INFORMATION

The Village of New Ghosts by Winifred Hughes

Paperback: 96 pages

Publisher: Passager Books ISBN 978-1-7355148-8-8

Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.3 x 8 inches

\$18

Bookstores: Order through Itasca Books at <a href="ItascaBooks.com">ItascaBooks.com</a>. For consignment, order directly from Passager Books at <a href="christine@passagerbooks.com">christine@passagerbooks.com</a>.

Questions: editors@passagerbooks.com



Passager 7401 Park Heights Ave. Baltimore, MD 21208 www.passagerbooks.com