

*20 Years of
Nightboat*

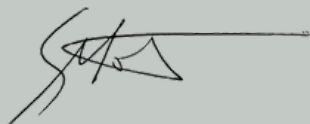
A Note from the Publisher

It's hard to believe that Nightboat is 20 years old! What began as a volunteer operation in Beacon, New York is now an internationally distributed press with 250+ titles in the catalog, including a National Book Award finalist, more than a dozen Lambda Literary Award winners, and recipients of both the Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award and Griffin Poetry Prize.

From our first book, Fanny Howe's genre-defying *The Lives of a Spirit/Glasstown: Where Something Got Broken* (2005), to the first-of-its-kind anthology of trans and genderqueer poetics *Troubling the Line* (2013), to our bestselling archival reissue of Larry Mitchell and Ned Asta's *The Faggots & Their Friends Between Revolutions* (2019), Nightboat's devotion to experimental and historically marginalized voices has never wavered.

It's much easier to believe in another 20 years of Nightboat. It's abundantly clear how necessary this work is, and we're committed to making it happen: this year we brought staff and board together for the first time at a strategic planning retreat in Los Angeles, launched the Kazim Ali Fund to raise \$50,000 for Nightboat's future, and are hosting our first-ever benefit this fall.

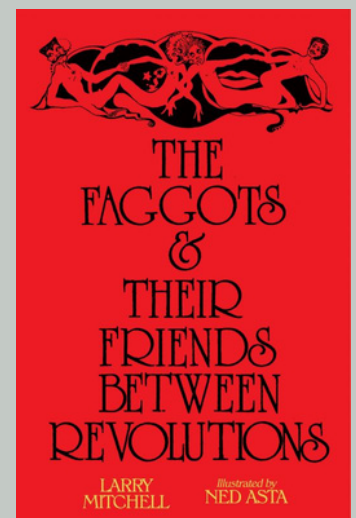
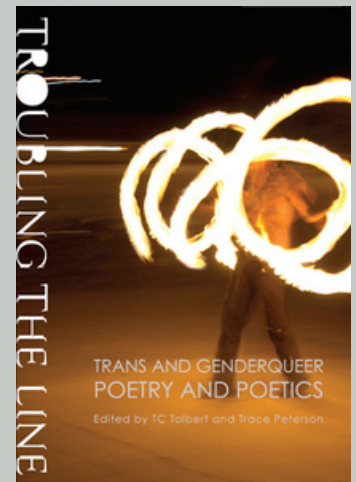
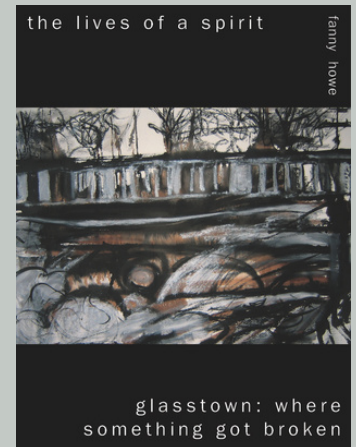
Thank you for making this work possible.



Stephen Motika
Director & Publisher



nightboat books

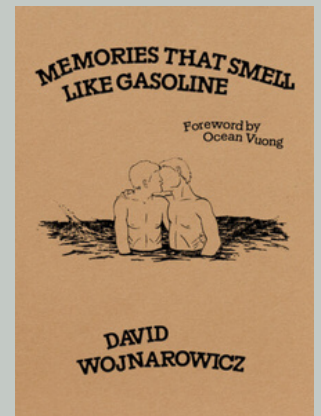
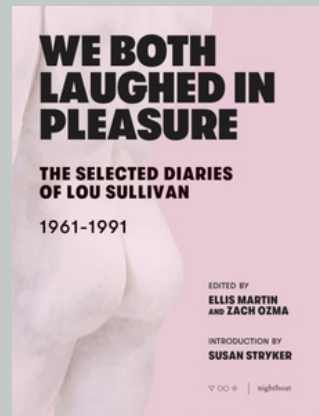
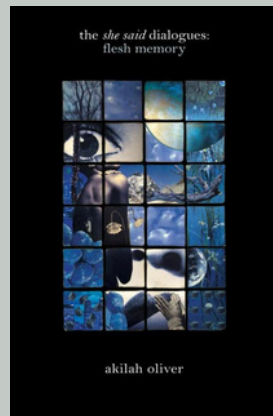


Editorial Updates

Nightboat is an evolving and collaborative project. Here's a snapshot of our editorial perspective as we enter our third decade:

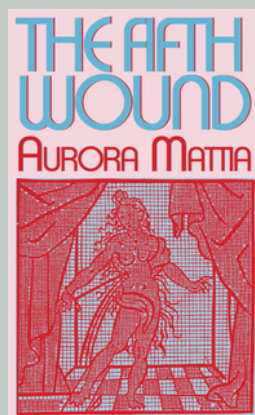
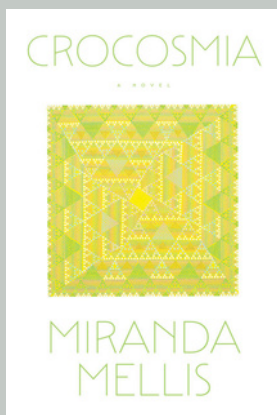
A focus on queer archival work

Nightboat has a long history of publishing queer voices from the archive, many of whom died in the AIDS epidemic. By uplifting these essential works, we hope Nightboat can be both an archive of resistance and a grounding force as we move through another wave of conservatism, transphobia, and homophobia.



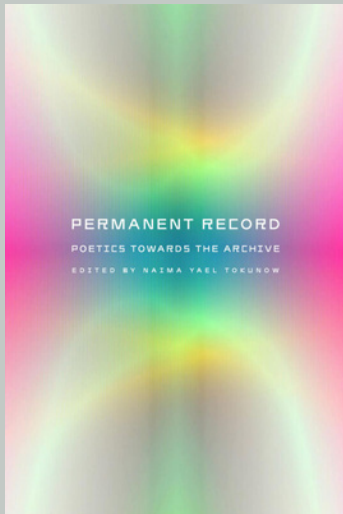
A growing list of innovative prose

We continue to seek out experimental, resonant prose by authors such as Joon Oluchi Lee, Hannah Levene, Aurora Mattia, Miranda Mellis, and Charlie Porter. As our prose list expands, the idea of a "Nightboat novel" is beginning to crystalize: transgressive, moving, and with a distinct lyric sense.



Continuing our successful Editorial Fellowship, now in its second iteration

We published our inaugural Fellow Naima Yael Tokunow’s book project, *Permanent Record: Poetics Towards the Archive*, in February 2025, a wide-ranging anthology of 40+ writers investigating the archive. Our current Fellow, Terrance Hudson, is in the research phase of their project, which will be published in 2027.



“Nightboat’s fellowship has allowed me to grow and deepen my editorial skills in an environment built on tenderness, support, and rigor. The editorial staff offered meaningful thought partnership that helped me develop a rich editorial project, one that I am so thrilled to get to work on from development to publication.”

—Naima Yael Tokunow

Deep commitment to contemporary poets and poetics, including debut works

Nightboat is honored to have been the publisher of many leading voices in experimental poetics across multiple books, including Samiya Bashir, Gillian Conoley, Kay Gabriel, Wayne Koestenbaum, Aditi Machado, Dawn Lundy Martin, Mónica de la Torre, and Brian Teare—and to be the trusted steward of debut works by emergent writers including Wo Chan, Emily Lee Luan, Funto Omojola, Rosie Stockton, and Nora Treatbaby.



Nightboat by the Numbers

18–20 books published annually

50,000+ copies sold of our top title:

The Faggots & Their Friends Between Revolutions

34% of our 2024 sales went to independent bookstores

—3x the national average!

32 public readings, events, and book launches in 2024

\$10,000 awarded biannually to an emerging BIPOC editor

via our Editorial Fellowship

214 authors, editors, and translators published by Nightboat

1,200+ attendees to anniversary readings and events

at the 2025 AWP Conference and at venues across L.A.



Camille Roy reads to a capacity crowd at Nightboat's 20th Anniversary Showcase at 2220 Arts in Los Angeles.

From all of Nightboat, a resounding **THANK YOU** for being with us, whether for twenty years or two months. This press exists because of our energized, generous, and forward-thinking community of writers, readers, and supporters.

When Nightboat lost federal funding in May, we published a statement looking to the voices of authors Jayne Cortez, Larry Mitchell, and Assotto Saint for guidance on how to approach these coming years. As Saint says, [we must become powerful enough to stand tall not fall, thrive and not just survive. A tremendous amount of common sense, arrogance, and defiance will get us through.](#)

To another twenty years of common sense, arrogance, defiance—and many, many books.

In gratitude,

Nightboat Books Staff

Lina Bergamini
Lindsey Boldt
Emily Bark Brown
Morgan Levine
Stephen Motika
Kit Schluter
Dante Silva

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