



K Weber

An interview, exclusive to
Black Bough poetry, with
maverick American poet,
photographer and artist,
- K Weber. -

Q. You do not typically write micro-poems. What drew you to writing them in recent times and especially submitting them to Black Bough Poetry?

I was drawn into the 1st issue of BBP and seeing such an array of themes and forms in compact space. I even got a newfound or resurrected interest in haiku while browsing the issue. I do not tend to write “long” poems but I do not often dabble in brief poems, especially not with short line or character limits. I really wanted to be a part of Issue #2. As hesitant as I was about my entries, Matt had found “Small” to be of particular worth. We worked together to make the necessary edits to have this poem stand out but also stand among other strong, vivid poems in the moon landing anniversary collection. Also nudging me into a more micro-poem space around this time was the emergence of Detritus online magazine which allotted 100 words or less per poem. The timing of these opportunities really gave me much inspiration in writing memorable poems within stricter confines, size-wise!

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Q. Issue 3 saw some of your photography incorporated among the written works. How did you decide which visual art pieces to submit to BBP?

I truly just dabble in photography. There had been a call for some slightly more noir photos for BBP 3. I shot a few simple but slightly moody pictures and was so pleased to have some of those experiments placed in the issue! I enjoy photographing very close-up subjects in black and white especially! Every time I snap a photo of something, I tend to zero-in on a facet that is lesser-seen.

“I love the 1:1 interactions I have with my readers and listeners and that I am as accessible and interactive and human as possible”

Q. You have self-published 4 online chapbooks/audiobooks since 2003. You have another similarly-formatted book on the way. Talk a bit about these projects and especially creating work that is free.

A. I have always enjoyed being responsible for every piece of my creative output. My chapbooks are no exception. From the poems themselves to the promotion, the website, the layout and even recording the audio and making/featuring my own music, my projects have always been very much mine until released. I love the 1:1 interactions I have with my readers and listeners and that I am as accessible and interactive and

human as possible. I don't sit back and worry about reviews, the projects are what they are, totally there to be taken at face value and not concerned with praise or perfection. Also, I am not at a point where I am ready to do a print book or take my process a giant step further.

However, my latest free online chapbook/audiobook, **THIS ASSEMBLY**, has been an incredible catalyst for reaching out, seeking assistance in the poetic and editing process... a wholly new way to prime me for future occasions in which I might fashion a chapbook or full-length with input and collaboration with others.

In **THIS ASSEMBLY**, poems were written by me. But over 160 individuals donated words to this effort! Randomization, polls, drawings, and roll of the dice determined how many words went into each poem and which words go into which poem. There are bonus poems wherein other writers and I wrote unique poems incorporating the same 5 donated words. There is a final poem where I got to choose 5 words one poet placed into a fresh, new poem. I even had 12 readers who gave feedback and helped with my revision process; a totally different way of approaching a chapbook's construction compared to my past self-contained projects!

“this whole strange and electrifying donated words project has taught me to let go a bit and just see what happens, how we can pool resources and build something tremendous. That I get to do something like this is a gift.”

I love that people get excited to see the poems that develop using a word they donated. I have met new friends and collaborated more with others through this process. It is not easy to ask for help and I know as much as I love the DIY process of my past, I have felt so lifted up by everyone involved. We even voted on a color scheme for the cover art! As much as I relish the chance to dizzy myself with my own projects, this whole strange and electrifying donated words project has taught me to let go a bit and just see what happens, how we can pool resources and build something tremendous. That I get to do something like this is a gift. You can now view the project in PDF or audio formats at <https://kweberandherwords.wordpress.com/2019/12/10/413/>



Q. You have had a busy year getting back into submitting poems, creating experimental work, publishing your photography, and writing song recommendations. Where can someone find your most complete list of credits for your various adventures?

A. My website has pretty much everything I have put out into the world all nice and up-to-date! Go to <http://kweberandherwords.wordpress.com> to view my free online PDF books of poetry and listen to their audiobook companions! The “ABOUT” page has lists and links to all of my work published on line and/or in print! There, you can also link to some of my other pages such as “a 5K” which is a space where I occasionally post recordings of me reading 5 of my poems. Follow me on Twitter @kweberandherwords for the latest goings-on, too!

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