

The Miniature Room

WINNER OF THE 2006 T. S. ELIOT PRIZE

The T. S. Eliot Prize for Poetry is an annual award sponsored by Truman State University Press for the best unpublished book-length collection of poetry in English, in honor of native Missourian T. S. Eliot's considerable intellectual and artistic legacy.

Judge for 2006: Naomi Shihab Nye

THE
MINIATURE
ROOM

POEMS BY
REBECCA DUNHAM



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For Mark

The minuscule, a narrow gate, opens up an entire world.

—Gaston Bachelard

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Bellingham Review: “Summer”

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Blackbird: “Tableau”

Borderlands: Texas Poetry Review: “All That Is” (as “Elegy I Do Not Wish to Write”)

Crab Orchard Review: “Ontology of the Miniature Room,” “God Measuring the World with a Compass”

Crazyhorse: “Phial: Elizabeth at Age 6,” “Extremity”

Cream City Review: “Self-Portrait as Miniature”

Dogwood: “Black Frost”

Elixir: “Detail”

Gulf Coast: “Saint Anne to Her Daughter,” “Harem of Saint Marcia”

Hawai'i Pacific Review: "The Soap Bubble"

Indiana Review: "Box Series"

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NOTES

In section 3 of “Box Series,” the lines in italics are from *Refusing Heaven* by Jack Gilbert.

In “Black Frost,” several phrases are from poems by Sylvia Plath.

The italicized phrase in “Poem in the Manner of Frida Kahlo” is spoken by Laocoön in Virgil’s *Aeneid*.

“Curator of Fruit” is indebted to John Seabrook’s article on Isabella Dalla Ragione in *The New Yorker*, September 5, 2005.

“Putting Him to Bed” quotes Marco Polo’s *The Travels*.

The first italicized phrase in “Reptilian Nocturne” is from the twelfth century *Cambridge Bestiary*.

In “God Measuring the World with a Compass,” the italicized portion comes from Bonaventure of Bagnoregio’s *Commentary on the Four Books of Sentences*, as translated by Umberto Eco in *History of Beauty*.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Rebecca Dunham is assistant professor of English at the University of Northern Iowa. Awards include the Jay C. and Ruth Halls Poetry Fellowship, the 2005 Indiana Review Poetry Prize, and a 2005 Academy of American Poets Prize. She received her PhD in creative writing from the University of Missouri-Columbia.