

whiplash



TRACEY FARREN



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Fiona Zerk

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STRANG
FRUIT

POEMS BY
HELEN MOFFETT

modjaji books

Making rain for Southern African Women Writers

catalogue 2010



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2007



Megan Hall is a graduate of UCT. Her writings have been widely published in South African literary magazines. She works in the publishing industry.

fourth child

Megan Hall

Megan Hall's first collection of poems, *Fourth Child*, has the texture of a carefully wrought, hand-stitched garment. It is something you want to bury your face in, like the familiar scented fabric of an item of clothing that belonged to a beloved who is gone. The poems combine a dark humour and terrible grief with a lightness and restrained sensuality. Her language has the qualities of dance: uninhibited and polished, accomplished and vivid. *Fourth Child* shows a poet courageously facing deep feelings while being committed to accurate writing, making beautiful and living things out of the fabric of loss, grief, and emptiness.

"Unassuming, at times matter-of-fact, ...the poems both shield and deepen, and works to control what could easily be runaway emotions." **Rustum Kozain**

"Acutely observed" "Wicked humour" "Honest deeply felt poems" **Mamadou N'Dongo in *African Writing Online***

"The tone of *Fourth Child* is cautious, carefully muted, but freighted with much emotion. A concealed sensitivity is unpeeled, poem by poem, until the reader is left with a knowledge not held before." **Fiona Zerbst in *The Sunday Independent***



ISBN: 978-0-9802729-0-1

64 pages

RRP: R110.00 incl. VAT



Azila Talit Reisenberger is an award winning author who has had poetry and short stories published internationally and in SA. She is a senior lecturer in Hebrew & Jewish Studies at UCT.

2008

Life in Translation

Azila Talit Reisenberger

Azila Talit Reisenberger is a Bible scholar, a rabbi, a mother, a wife, and a poet. In all these selves she grapples with translating her life from Hebrew to English and back again. *Life in Translation* is full of wry humour, longing, bitterness, sweetness, playfulness, and subversions of traditional meanings and texts – a delightful book that charms and surprises anew with each reading.

“I am an ‘immigrant’ to SA and so I write some works in English and some in Hebrew. I find that most of my writings deal with womanhood – life experiences with its glory and its pitfalls. I have had to make some choices: shall I continue to write Hebrew even if the “audience” is small or shall I “move” to the universal English? I decided to write in both, not to abandon the Hebrew. I believe that it enriches the SA cultural tapestry. Obviously I am working on translating it, but writing something in one’s own mother tongue allows for sensitivity and openness that can not be achieved through mediation – of a ‘foreign language’.”

Azila Talit Reisenberger



ISBN: 978-0-9802729-1-8
320 pages
RRP: R110.00 incl. VAT

“Not to be heard. Not to be understood. Azila Reisenberger’s poetry makes us overwhelmingly aware how often we have to translate ourselves in order to matter.” **Antjie Krog**



Tracey Farren lives in Cape Town with four dogs, a surfer and her three children. She has a psychology honours degree from UCT. She worked as a freelance journalist before turning to fiction.



ISBN: 978-0-9802729-2-5
320 pages
RRP: R150.00 incl. VAT

2008

whiplash

Recipient of
White Ribbon Award
in December 2008 from
Women Demand Dignity
Advocacy Group.

Tracey Farren

An unputdownable, gripping debut novel, a 'Cinderella' story about a Muizenberg (Cape Town) prostitute, Tess, who while being addicted to painkillers and selling her body on the street finds redemption in unexpected places. Her quirky humour, honesty and love of beauty save her when she faces tough choices. The book has heart and a feel-good factor in spite of its gritty and sometimes traumatic subject matter.

Selected as Book of the Month by Adele Hamilton for the www.women24.com Book Club, "Whiplash had me from page 1".

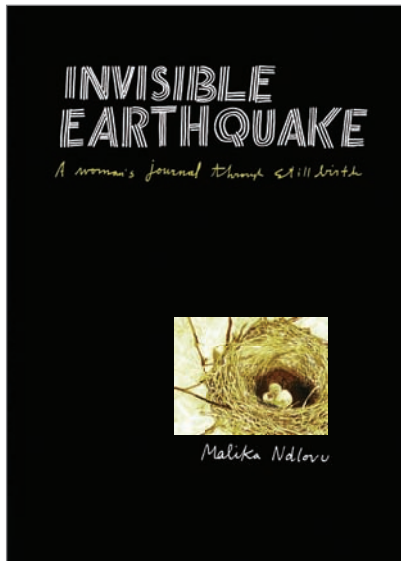
Every review so far has praised *Whiplash*, from describing it as "one of the best novels to come out of South Africa in several years" to "having the makings of a best seller" in *The Weekender* on 19/07/08. Farren is an important new voice, who has already completed her second novel.

"Brave novel, well worth reading," **Janet van Eeden** in *The Witness*

"Ground-breaking novel," **Arja Salafranca** in *The Star*, Tonight



Durban born, Malika Ndlovu is a poet, performer, and playwright whose works have been performed both locally and internationally. She is a founder-member of the women writers' collective, WEAVE and is currently curator of the Africa Centre's poetry project, Badilisha!



ISBN: 978-0-9802729-3-2

88 pages

RRP: R130.00 incl. VAT

INVISIBLE EARTHQUAKE

Malika Ndlovu

Malika Ndlovu takes us right into the heart of her grief – the loss of her third child, who was stillborn. The book breaks the silence around stillbirth, often seen as a non-event, something women are expected to “get over” as soon as possible. *Invisible Earthquake* is placed in the wider South African context by Sue Fawcus, who writes tenderly and expertly about stillbirth from the point of view of an obstetrician, and by Zubeida Bassadien and Muriel Johnstone, social workers who accompany women going through this shattering experience.

“This is one of those deep intense books where you have no choice but to feel with the author. You may feel the need to put it down for short periods while you digest all that emotion. I chose to read it all at once, from cover to cover, so that I could get the true feeling of Malika’s expression. I needed to experience her world the way that she intended on these golden pages, and I did.” **Renecia Scheepers, *Bush Radio***

“Malika has created a piece of work that gives grief a voice. I know this will bring solace to all those who read it, anyone who has lost any loved one will see themselves in her words.” **Joy McPherson, *Founder Midwives Inc.***



Joan Metelerkamp is the author of seven books of poems: *Towing the Line* (1992), *Stone No More* (1995), *Into the day breaking* (2000), *Floating Islands* (2001), *Requiem* (2003), *Carrying the Fire* (2005), and *Burnt Offering* (2009).

BURNT Offering

Joan Metelerkamp

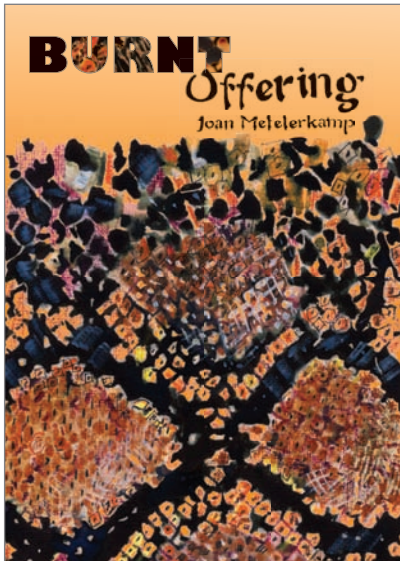
Burnt Offering is Joan Metelerkamp's seventh collection of poems. The title comes from a poem in a cycle that embodies the labours of the medieval alchemists – heating and burning, transformation of passionate intensity, the search for an enduring element. In the process malignant doubt is burnt off, and what takes its place is trust in the everyday:

take this day, here, take it
all its clarity, all its gold –

Like all of Metelerkamp's work, these generous poems draw on the details of family and rural life, dreams, landscapes and journeys and weave together, with her distinctive energy and passion.

"Burnt Offering is compelling reading, it sweeps one away like a riptide does."
Maira Richards, poet and reviewer

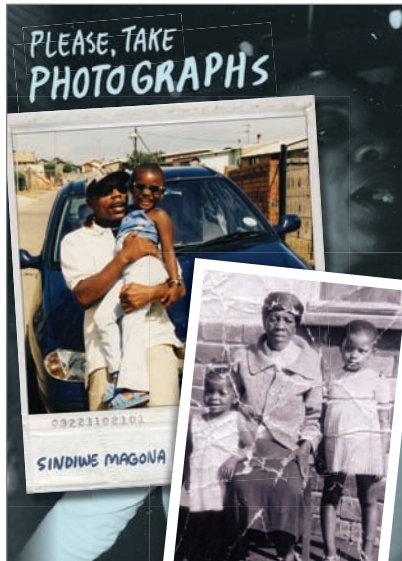
"I loved Joan's collection which I found at once immediately readable, dazzling, fragile, and formidable. Beautiful journeys into the need to love, to speak, to understand and simultaneously to travel beyond the boundaries that constrain language."
Stacy Hardy, poet and journalist



ISBN: 978-0-9802729-4-9
96 pages
RRP: R130.00 incl. VAT



Sindiwe Magona is a multi-award winning author of plays, essays, novels, memoir, educational books for children and poetry. *Please, Take Photographs* is her first collection of poetry.



ISBN: 978-0-9802729-5-6

80 pages

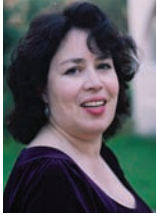
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PLEASE, TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS

Sindiwe Magona

Sindiwe Magona's poems conspire with her. Even years after being written, they still seem warm from her lips, and it is this residue of her telling them that draws you into their confidence. From the languid innocence of the poems about her village, to her shattering images of Africa at war, Magona leads you headlong into her fireside circle where archetypes flicker like shadows on a face that has seen, and been. *Please, Take Photographs* is defiant and tender, horrific and homely, at once irreverent, outspoken and beautiful.

"Sindiwe Magona has published everything but poetry – great novels, memoirs, essays, educational books for children. Now, at the peak of her form, she has unveiled her poems – the most difficult art form of all to get right, but like an arrow to the heart when they succeed." [Jane Raphaely](#)



Helen Moffett is a freelance editor, author and academic. She has lectured as far afield as Trinidad and Alaska, but calls Cape Town home. *Strange Fruit* is her first collection of her own poems.



ISBN: 978-0-9802729-6-3

56 pages

RRP: R120.00 incl. VAT

STRANGE FRUIT

Helen Moffett

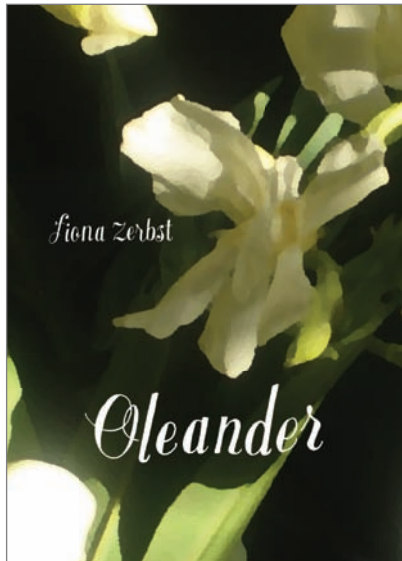
Strange Fruit is a courageous debut with a remarkable range in theme and tone, from the nostalgic to the comedic and the bawdy, from the angry, the melancholic, the steadfast and the comforting. It will delight, shock, anger, induce laughter, shock more, delight more. And make you blush. It's a full range. There are poems of brutally honest self-scrutiny – the heart of the collection being a series of poems on the ageing body, loss of love and infertility – and there are poems that capture landscapes with imagist skill and the botanist's detail.

"Your voice sparkles with humour and passion and is blessed with intelligence, incredible clarity and verve." *Yaba Badoe, writer and documentary film-maker, UK*

"In this reflective collection Helen manages to capture images of loss, ageing and infertility that are at once funny, heartbreaking and thought-provoking. A love of nature shines through on every page and our thoughts are allowed to transcend the urban spaces we occupy. The poems are honest, forthright and powerful. Join Helen on this expedition of the senses." *The Book Lounge, Cape Town*



Fiona Zerbst was born in Cape Town in 1969. She has travelled widely and is currently she works as a freelance journalist and lives in Rustenburg. *Oleander* is her fourth volume of poetry.



ISBN: 978-0-9802729-7-0

56 pages

RRP: R120.00 incl. VAT

Oleander

Fiona Zerbst

Oleander explores life's complexities, both beautiful and poisonous – love, death, art, the aftermath of war and genocide, travel, religion, revelation. More wide-ranging than Zerbst's previous volumes, *Oleander* charts experiences through which the self may be transformed.

"In *Oleander*, Fiona Zerbst's lyrical voice reveals itself – not for the first time, she has been long been evident as an interpreter of her private and public worlds – but yet again strongly, freshly. Her continual reinvention of the self – and self-consciousness about the frame and objects of the invention – is perhaps more fully present than in any other young contemporary poet in South Africa." **Peter Wilhelm**

"The exquisite language of *Oleander* is integral to the ethos of the collection – in an ungingiving world, the poems find an honest, austere beauty in the stories of those whom history erases." **Gabea Baderoon**

"Each poem holds in it gigantic themes of loss and attachment (to place in particular) and what it is to create, and the beauty when seasons and landscapes collide, and ever turning time, and movement, always movement, in its careful, very female hands." **Karen Jayes, Fair Lady; winner of 2009 PEN Studzinski prize**

2009



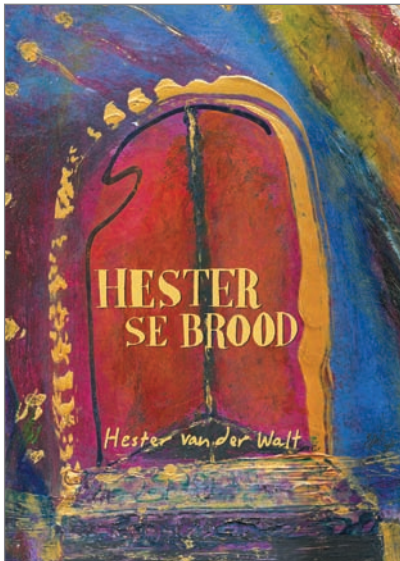
Na 'n loopbaan in verpleegkunde en gesondheidsnavorsing vestig Hester van der Walt haar in McGregor waar sy deesdae brood bak vir die plaaslike mark. Sy skryf graag poësie en kortverhale en in 2009 verskyn *Hester se Brood*.

HESTER SE BROOD

Hester van der Walt

Hester se Brood is 'n eerlike (en heerlike) plat-op-die-aarde boek wat vertel van die skrywer, Hester van der Walt, se passie vir broodbak. Dit is gesetel in McGregor in die Klein Karoo – waar sy brood in 'n houtbakoond vir die plaaslike mark bak – en weerspieël die skrywer se intuitiewe aanvoeling vir die konneksie tussen siel en kos, veral kos wat met sorg, volgens tradisionele beginsels en metodes, voorberei word.

'n Fyn sin vir humor, praktiese wenke en smul-lekker resepte, maak hierdie boek net so onweerstaanbaar soos die reuk van brood, kraakvars uit die oond.



ISBN: 978-0-9802729-8-7

192 pages

RRP: R190.00 incl. VAT

Missing

Beverly Rycroft

ISBN: 978-1-920397-06-7

Beverly Rycroft was born in the Eastern Cape. She is a graduate of UCT and Wits. A qualified teacher, she taught for several years before turning to writing full-time. She has written articles for both local and international magazines and in 2000 was joint winner of the Femina/Sensa Features competition. Her poems have appeared in *Carapace* and *New Coin*, and are due to appear in the 2009 edition of *Scrutiny 2*. Beverly lives in Cape Town with her family.



“This astonishingly moving debut collection reads compellingly as one complete story. *Missing* covers the archetypal journey from sickness and near-death to transformation and hope. Rycroft wears her exquisite poetic technique lightly – though rich in deftly-crafted images, the poems are profoundly inviting, readable, memorable. I could not put it down.” – **Finuala Dowling**

Piece Work

Ingrid Andersen

ISBN: 978-1-920397-07-4

Ingrid Andersen worked as a theatre publicist in the 1980s in Joburg. An Anglican priest, she is active in community development, as CEO of the Rosebank Homeless Association, Community Engagement Manager at Rhodes University and now at UKZN, focusing on peace building, healing, and reconciliation. Her poems have been widely published in local literary magazines. Her first collection of poems, *Excision* was published in 2005. She is the founding editor of *Incwadi*, a South African online journal of poetry and photography.



“Andersen’s poems fuse the best of Imagism with a heartfelt compassion; with a few well-chosen words, she can turn the rawness and imprecision of emotion into poems that reach simultaneously for clarity and for the reader’s heart. She is generous, careful, passionate – all these qualities make her work profound and accessible. Each poem is a self-contained loveliness.” **Fiona Zerbst**

The Biggest House

Phillippa Yaa de Villiers

A new collection of poems from well known actress, playwright and poet.



ISBN: 978-1-920397-05-0

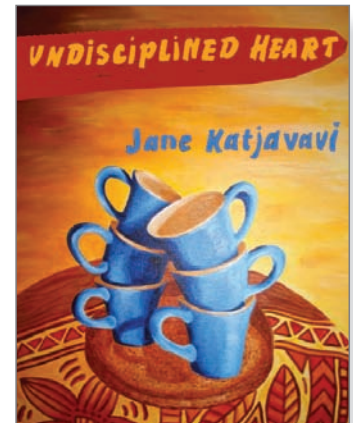
Undisciplined Heart

Jane Katjavivi

Undisciplined Heart is the memoir of Jane Katjavivi, book activist and independent publisher from Namibia. This memoir moves between the personal stories of eight women and the broader context of their lives in independent Namibia. It deals with friendship and loss, identity and belonging, and the author's struggle to come to terms with chronic illness and her own mortality.



ISBN: 978-1-920397-04-3



forthcoming



The Bed Book of Short Stories

Edited by Joanne Hichens

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