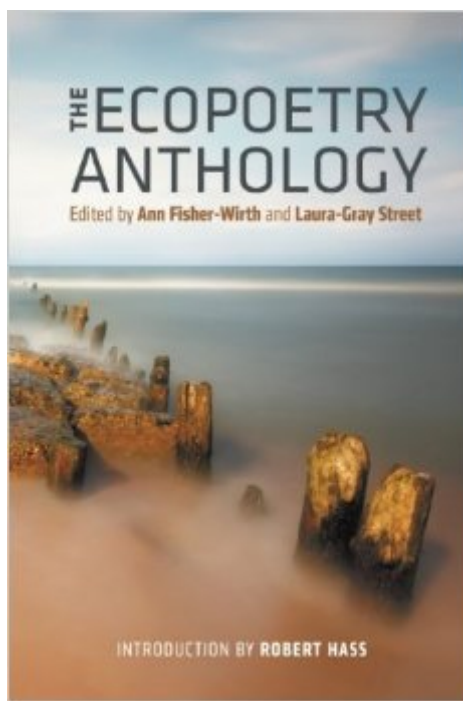


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The Eco-poetry Anthology



Synopsis

Definitive and daring, *The Eco-poetry Anthology* is the authoritative collection of contemporary American poetry about nature and the environment--in all its glory and challenge. From praise to lament, the work covers the range of human response to an increasingly complex and often disturbing natural world and inquires of our human place in a vastness beyond the human. To establish the antecedents of today's writing, *The Eco-poetry Anthology* presents a historical section that includes poetry written from roughly the mid-nineteenth to the mid-twentieth century. Iconic American poets like Walt Whitman and Emily Dickinson are followed by more modern poets like Wallace Stevens, William Carlos Williams, Ezra Pound, and even more recent foundational work by poets like Theodore Roethke, Elizabeth Bishop, Robert Hayden, and Muriel Rukeyser. With subtle discernment, the editors portray our country's rich heritage and dramatic range of writing about the natural world around us.

Book Information

Paperback: 672 pages

Publisher: Trinity University Press (February 26, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1595341463

ISBN-13: 978-1595341464

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1.5 x 8.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (10 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

Probably against my better judgment I read this anthology, over the course of several months, front-to-back, cover-to-cover, blurbs-to-credits. I feel obliged to provide an account of findings -- whether it serves as an invitation or as a warning. I'm drawn to the poetry of ecological-environmental-evolutionary concerns and figured this sprawling 628-page tome (occupying a full 1 15/32" of shelf space -- the width, incidentally, of a #24 stopper), including the works of 208 poets -- while clearly not a paragon of concision -- would provide a comprehensive overview of the best poets and poems of the field; and that it would turn up some valuable

discoveries. There were useful discoveries, yes, but finding them required wading too many unnecessary pages, often filled with mediocre and sometimes painful poetry. Anthologies inevitably provoke opinions and raise hackles: perceived errors of inclusion, exclusion, and relative weighting -- all the judgments that choices trigger. This review follows that honored tradition. I admit to general preferences for the succinct over the meandering, the poetry of knowledge over the poetry of whimsy and obscurity, the vivid image over the bland declaration. So ... having reached the age at which seeking favor and defending one's reputation aren't worth the effort, I'll dive in: The Valuable Discoveries (or confirmations of previous discoveries): The anthology contains much admirable, impressive work. Poems to recommend to your best friends.

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