



As Burning Leaves

POETRY BY

Gabriel Jesiolowski

Winner of the 2015 Benjamin Salman Award, as chosen by Carl Phillips.

As Burning Leaves offers spaciousness and breath. Both homesick and sick of home, it chronicles a landscape of longing scored with traces of film, contemporary art, and song. Vivid and vital, Jesiolowski's queer insight lends a critical voice to the fleeting: "wind moves the leaves across the water / they do not gather / do not cling." A brave and elegant debut.

An arresting whisper of a debut, *As Burning Leaves* is a record of what remains. It moves through the visible world with precision and heart—delivers us to a space of aquatic light, to bruises flowering and moonlit streets covered in clothing. This collection emerges from channels of film, contemporary art, and meditations on the body: "less / if you dare winter / if you cut a star into your leg / if you find the green in the muck / less if the clouds disperse to allow blue inlets." *As Burning Leaves* traces a path of queer failure that questions notions of desirability, self, and otherness. Jesiolowski asks what art is for, recalibrates the room of the stanza, proposes names for touch we never use. This book has an internal navigation system, a pact with the phenomenal. It courts the fleeting and rests in the stigma of a sunflower, lets us taste smoke in snow. ". . . the folk song says that we need a little sadness—so we invent the passing of railcars . . ." Elegant and cutting, radical and intimate, this is a book to find, to hold, to give.

ADVANCE PRAISE

"The geography of the body changes; its landmarks temporary; its border shifting, in Gabriel Jesiolowski's *As Burning Leaves*, a cartography of new forms, new ways of being. These poems constitute a healing atlas, a journey of utmost compassion, marked by both formal elegance and artful eloquence. What a remarkable book; it will astonish and enchant you."

—D. A. Powell, author of *Lunch* and *A Guide for Boys*

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Gabriel Jesiolowski is a queer poet, artist, and curator. Born in the Midwest, they are the child of a textile artist and a psychologist. They work in a research-based practice using installation, photography, painting, performance, printed matter, and text to scuffle within the spaces of language and art. Over the past ten years they have taught art, writing, and gender studies at the university level and curated traveling and pop-up exhibitions. Their work has been shown in galleries such as Dumbo Arts Center, Future Tenants Gallery and the Flux Factory and appeared in print in *Crossings: A Counter-Disciplinary Journal*, *So to Speak*, and *DIAGRAM*, among others. They were the February 2016 writer in residence at The Alice Gallery in Seattle, and they are currently at work on a book of prose poems, an experimental film, and blueprints for a traveling apothecary. They live in the San Juan Islands, off the coast of Washington.



PUB DATE: April 13, 2017

ISBN: 978-1-59709-025-4

SIZE: 6 in x 9 in

FORMAT: Tradepaper

EXTENT: 80pp

PRICE: \$16.95

MEDIA CONTACT

Rebecca Baumann

Publicist, Red Hen Press

626-356-4760

publicity@redhen.org

REDHEN PRESS

DISTRIBUTED BY

Ingram Publisher Services

an exclusive distribution entity

ORDERING INFORMATION

Tel: 800-252-7012

ips@ingramcontent.com

ipage.ingramcontent.com



MORE PRAISE FOR AS BURNING LEAVES

“What Gabriel Jesiolowski is up to in their life—their installation art and their photography and their writing too—is built from a push and pull between a politics of accumulation that is full of abandoning and giving away. It makes sense then to think of *As Burning Leaves* as a sort of writing that takes a life and ties many parts of it together with a thin string to make a beautiful package. This is in many ways a book of love poems. But what it loves is all sorts of things, everything from bark to humans to folk songs to steam and smoke. It is a work that is quiet and a work that is attentive and one that is resonant with care and grace.”

—Juliana Spahr, author of *This Connection of Everyone with Lungs*

“From wordless, our bodies. From nameless, our memories. An image, a yearning—every landscape, and certain people. The gesture, the wingspan, in quiet, and all across the page. Each scratch and smudge accrues the diary of *As Burning Leaves*, Gabriel Jesiolowski’s wonderful, haunting, elementally human presence!”

—Ralph Angel, author of *Neither World*

“[W]hat if there is no ghost realm?” asks Gabriel Jesiolowski in the quietly arresting, steadily confident *As Burning Leaves*. But what if a ghost realm does in fact exist, and we are the ghosts—both haunting and haunted—who wander those ‘causeways between/fucking & nothingness’ that lie in the wake of betrayal, violation, abandonment? These poems speak from and into that very realm, sifting memory’s restless evidence in a quest for answers to what ‘leads / / devotion / astray.’ Add to this a harder quest, for belief itself, the belief that ‘somehow, the body ceases grieving.’ These poems are at once the enactment and the proof of belief’s healing power. They stir; they shine.”

—Carl Phillips, author of *The Rest of Love* and
Final Judge for the 2015 Benjamin Saltman Award

FROM AS BURNING LEAVES

Entry for the Median Strip

it may help us to remember that our breath is not synchronized, not elegant, as we fuck on the edge of the median strip between highway & farmland—even on the plane field of the sheets my knees are buckling, but the gutters are *manmade*—my eyes lost in the stucco cast of the roofline—the rushing of the rain in the gutters, *manmade*—I want her to register on my skin—every house on the street, *manmade*, every war & war plane, *manmade*, the fluid gestures of her hands in salt water, even the wind in the tunnel is *manmade*



PUB DATE: April 13, 2017

ISBN: 978-1-59709-025-4

SIZE: 6 in x 9 in

FORMAT: Tradepaper

EXTENT: 80pp

PRICE: \$16.95

MEDIA CONTACT

Rebecca Baumann
Publicist, Red Hen Press
626-356-4760
publicity@redhen.org

REDHEN PRESS

DISTRIBUTED BY

Ingram Publisher Services
an exclusive distribution entity

ORDERING INFORMATION

Tel: 800-252-7012
ips@ingramcontent.com
ipage.ingramcontent.com