



News from

Red Hen Press

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Vocabulary of Silence

Poems by

Veronica Golos

Poet Veronica Golos has created a conundrum—a vocabulary of silence that acts as a kind of Zen koan for the reader: a negative space, an echo chamber, a mirror. Witnessing from afar the continuing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan conducted by the country in which she lives, the poet also witnesses herself, and struggles to find words to carry the weight of her felt responsibility. Ms. Golos then empties her beautifully wrought poems into the vast silence, filling it with the names of the dead and the living.

Vocabulary of Silence

Poems by Veronica Golos

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96 pages

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Released

Biographical note:

Veronica Golos won the 16th annual Nicholas Roerich Poetry Prize (Story Line Press) for her book, *A Bell Buried Deep* (to be re-issued by Red Hen Press), and is the author of *Vocabulary of Silence* (Red Hen Press, 2011). An award-winning curator and teacher for Poets & Writers, Poet's House and 92nd St Y/Makor in New York City, Ms. Golos' work has been published and anthologized nationally and internationally, and adapted for theatrical productions in New York City's Theatre Row, and the Claremont Theological Seminary in California. Her poetry was the centerpiece of *My Land is Me*, a four-artist multimedia exhibit in Taos, NM that questioned the western view of the Veil.

Praise for *Vocabulary of Silence*:

“Language fails. Eden in ruin. Golos is a serious poet, luminous and brave. She watches our ghosts. Her poetry is wild in walled spaces, tunnels through which much comes: Iraq and America, Israel and Palestine, silence and shouting, war and prayer, light and violence, Mexico and New Mexico, the current news of the day and the essential news of the past & future. Golos is a poet who tells us both who we are and why we are. In her powerfully realized poems, she speaks of an immeasurable emptiness that could destroy us; or—perhaps, save us.”

—Angelo Verga

“*Vocabulary Of Silence* is a collection to savor and experience fully, a collection to educate ourselves with. It is a collection to read during a quiet time of day, when its full voice can reach to our hearts, as Veronica Golos does so beautifully, and ask the fundamental question stated so plainly in the title poem: *‘What makes us? I want it to be love.’*”

—George Wallace



More Praise for *Vocabulary of Silence*



“It’s a difficult thing to write about war – especially so the one you’re not really in, not in the dirty part. Poet Veronica Golos takes the fragments, the bits and pieces that reach us from the battlefield, and weaves them with a morality and a sorrow, to make us understand both our helplessness and our responsibility. *Vocabulary of Silence* finds the cracks in our liberal armor and helps us feel our own shame.”

—Barbara Nimri Aziz

“In this ambitious second book, Golos responds to the U.S. invasion of Iraq with poems that just as readily evoke the Hindu creator-destroyer goddess Kali. “I offer grief,” her speaker declares, “I know its gravity.” Yet the energy pouring from these poems is palpable. At her best, they are a surging dark cloth and at the corner of each is a nail meant to hold the lines in place, such that the whole daring enterprise billows from the page.”

—Sawnie Morris

**From “Frag-
Ments”**

War—
its absence—a trick
of light, blinding—
like the Interrogator’s lamp.

===

Names of the dead slur between tongues,
mispronounced: sudden: wasp
in the throat:
Say what I mean you to say.

===

Derelict souls shipped out
shipped back
as cargo.
Their truth is silence,
that cold cage, that bullet





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