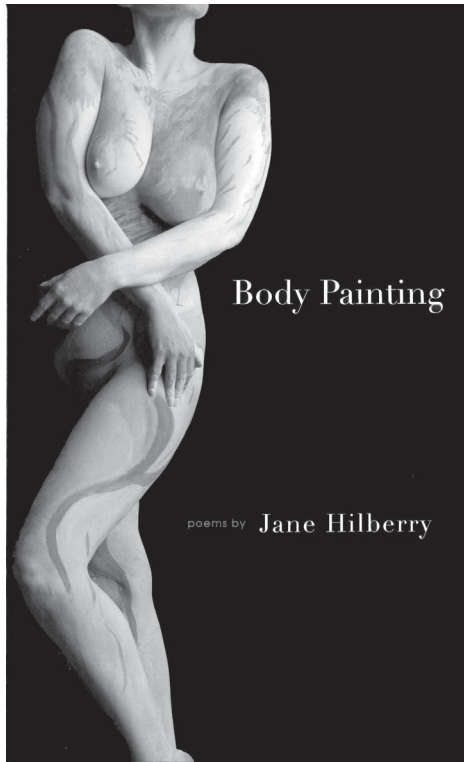


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SPRING 2005 RELEASE:



Body Painting

Poetry by Jane Hilberry

ISBN: 1-59709-013-1

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Body Painting

poetry by

Jane Hilberry

In Hilberry's poems, the body is a canvas on which a whole range of experiences are painted: grief at the loss of a sister, the adolescent search for God, sexual passion, and ordinary pleasures such as swaying in a hammock, touching the astonishing warmth of a lover's body, or watching a surfer rise "on the joy of a wave." Crazy Jane, an alter-ego figure, makes appearances throughout the book, seducing a bear, sleeping in a priest's bed, and generally transgressing social norms. Ultimately, the book celebrates the poet's own unconventional choices—to love both men and women, not to have children, to abandon the attempt to find God in church. She ends up loving the impermanent world and the mortal body, wanting only to touch "what's returning to earth."

"If this is the book of the body, its lineaments are those of not only erotic but spiritual desire. Here friends and lovers, mothers and children, intermingle as in the morning light and shadow of a forgotten room, and the source of that light is Hilberry's very distinctive lyric voice, constantly surprising us with its subdued wit and deep understanding of what it means to be human."

—B. H. Fairchild

"Mystical, sensuous, and anguished anthems are sung here. Celebrations of being that are both fierce and tender, wry and vulnerable by turns. If Whitman had settled down enough to love a few men and women intensely and over time, he might have recorded those experiences in poems as rich as these, and been as pleased with them as Hilberry's readers will with these."

About the Author

Hilberry teaches literature and Creative Writing at Colorado College in Colorado Springs, where, for the past sixteen years, she has worked to develop methods for cultivating students' creativity. She has recently published and taught workshops in the United States and Canada on the subject of Creativity and Leadership. Interested in visual art as well as poetry, she has published a book of art criticism/biography titled *The Erotic Art of Edgar Britton* (Ocean View Books, 2001) in addition to two chapbooks of poems.

Her honors include a Colorado Council on the Arts Recognition Award for Poetry; a Colorado Endowment for the Humanities Research Award; Mellon, Benezet and Jackson Fellowships from Colorado College; and the Elfrieda Lang Award for Poetry from the National Society of Arts and Letters.



AVAILABILITY &
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