

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

[Saddle Road Press](#) announces a new book of poems by Michael Collins:

Appearances

Publication date: November 1st, 2017

\$16. Trade paper. 84 pages. ISBN 978-09969074-5-3. Distributed through Ingram.

Media Contact: Ruth Thompson / rt@saddleroadpress.com



“I come here when I fear my soul/has fled forever,” says the speaker in *Appearances*, about a place where land, water, and sky converge. In poems that take their shape from daily walks around a teeming harbor, Michael Collins meditates on nature not as “some place you visit/some museum to nostalgia through,” but as a place of meeting and confrontation between nature and civilization, art and subject, consciousness and the unconscious, life and death. The poems in this sequence render images offered by both the human and natural worlds, even as the speaker knows that he “can’t reason these worlds/back together.”



Praise for *Appearances*

“In shimmering poems of double vision, Michael Collins offers walking meditations of the harbor he visits when he fears ‘his soul has fled forever.’ Driven by the predations of the world, he circles the ‘mirrors of this haven,’ startled into wakefulness and linguistic wit by orphic fish, ‘quacking sandals’ and ‘sacrosanct mallards,’ recasting myth and metaphysics in poems whose inventive formal and visual inversions upend any sense of solidity.” — J.C. Todd

“These urgent, spiritually searching poems glint with evocative description, fresh language, and inventive forms. This is a book rather than a collection, moving through close observations of sea and shore, to an often humorous self-awareness, and ultimately to a discovery of meaning in the ‘appearances,’ as in: ‘I’ve finished losing the world I thought I controlled; in the tiny light/flecks on delicate wavelets dawn and haven face one another.’ Intellectually rigorous and subtly moving.” — Joan Aleshire

“Always expert at integrating myth into contemporary life, making it not merely relevant but urgent, his work is both intimate and universal. Collins delves into the mysteries of the human heart, memory, nostalgia, regret, loss, and love with almost unbearable poignancy, but without sentimentality. A careful observer of the endangered natural world and the precarious inner life, he has both the keen eye of Bishop and the soul of Yeats.” — Jennifer Franklin

About Michael Collins

Michael Collins is the author of the chapbooks [*How to Sing when People Cut off your Head and Leave it Floating in the Water*](#) and [*Harbor Mandala*](#) and the full-length collection [*Psalmmandala*](#).

His poems have received Pushcart nominations and appeared in more than 50 journals and magazines, including *Grist*, *Kenning Journal*, *Pank*, and *Smartish Pace*.

Collins lives in New York with his wife and son, where he teaches creative and expository writing at New York University and the Hudson Valley Writers' Center and is the Director of Studies at Why There Are Words Press.

You can find Michael at [his own site](#).

If you're reading a print version of this press release, and would like an interactive version, or an image of the book's cover, you can find them at

www.saddleroadpress.com/appearances.html

A digital cover image can be downloaded [here](#).

Appearances is available through the Ingram distribution network. Individuals can purchase a copy at independent bookstores or through any online bookseller. A Kindle version will be available.

SADDLE ROAD PRESS

1483 Wailuku Drive

Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

(808) 935-1841

info@saddleroadpress.com

www.saddleroadpress.com