



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CRAZING, by Ruth Thompson

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[Saddle Road Press](#) of Hilo, Hawai'i, announces the release of *Crazing*, the latest work of poet Ruth Thompson, who takes on the themes of dementia, loss (and rediscovery) of self, and environmental collapse in a voice uniquely her own.

“My body and the earth’s body are one,” Thompson says in her much-praised video [Ruth Thompson Talks About Her Work](#). These two threads – the poet’s “crazing” body and the dessicating body of earth – interweave in *Crazing*. Here Thompson takes us through grief, elegy, memory, and delight – finding even her own mental cracks and the drought-stricken “delaminating” earth transformed by “laughter’s fire.”

“Who are you and what do you love?” she asks herself, and answers with poem after poem, despite loss of memory and the earth’s “seepage toward empty:” “this, this, this, this....”

“See the glaze crack?” she cries, “And the glazed eyes craze? // *Yes. This. It’s me.*”

This is a book which appeals beyond traditional readers of poetry. Families dealing with Alzheimer’s or other forms of dementia, those in grief about aging, questioning the future of our planet, spiritual teachers, yoga classes, book groups – *Crazing* deserves a place on many shelves.

From Jessamyn Smyth, author of *Kitsune*: “These poems vibrate on the page with essential, powerful life-force, in language as playful and gorgeously-lit as it is sharply wise. Thompson’s work offers multiple intelligences we direly need in our mortal, vulnerable passage through this beautiful and difficult world, “our great bright barge of stone and light.”

From Sandra Hunter, author of *Losing Touch*: “Ruth Thompson’s new book sings with beauty, loss, and hope. Her poems boom and soar, full of movement and sensory experience caught in gorgeous, chewable language.”

From Jendi Reiter, author of *Bullies in Love*: “Ruth Thompson responds with extraordinary grace and playfulness to the scattering of her mental and physical abilities in old age, the “crazing” of the glaze that gives the vessel its character....”

Early reader reviews are [here](#).

Published web reviews are [here](#) and [here](#).

Video: Ruth's youtube channel is [here](#).

Audio: a selection of Ruth's readings on Soundcloud can be found [here](#).

About the Author: Ruth Thompson is the author of *Crazing* (2015), *Woman With Crows* (2012; 2013), and *Here Along Cazenovia Creek* (2011).

Woman With Crows was a finalist for the A Room of Her Own Foundation's To The Lighthouse Prize, and includes poems that won the New Millennium Writings, Harpur Palate, and other prizes. Many of the poems celebrate the aging feminine body and the archetypal woman's journey through darkness. Jendi Reiter called *Woman With Crows* "an antidote to fear."

Originally from the San Francisco Bay Area, Ruth received a BA from Stanford and a doctorate in English from Indiana University, where she wrote her dissertation on William Faulkner. She has been an English professor, a librarian, a book editor, and a college dean in Los Angeles.

She now lives in Hilo, Hawai'i, where she teaches writing, meditation, and yoga.

Upcoming book events are listed [here](#).

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

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