

## The Value of Poetry

Eric Falci's *The Value of Poetry* offers an evaluation and critique of the literary, cultural, and political value of poetry in the twenty-first century. Falci claims that some of the most vital, significant, and enduring human notions have been voiced and held in poems. Poems marble civilizations: they catch courses of thought, tracks of feeling, and acts of speech and embed these shapes in language that is, in some fashion, poised toward the future. Falci argues that poetry is a vital medium in addressing and understanding some of the most pressing issues of our time. Ranging widely across canonical and contemporary poetry, *The Value of Poetry* shows how poems matter, and what poetry offers to readers in the contemporary world.

**Eric Falci** is Professor of English at the University of California, Berkeley. He is the author of *Continuity and Change in Irish Poetry, 1966–2010* (2012) and the *Cambridge Introduction to British Poetry, 1945–2010* (2015), as well as a number of essays on twentieth- and twenty-first-century Irish and British poetry. Along with Paige Reynolds, he is the co-editor of *Irish Literature in Transition, 1980–2020* (2020). His first book of poetry, *Late Along the Edgelands*, appeared in 2019.

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Eric Falci

*University of California, Berkeley*



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