

*The Cambridge Introduction to
American Poetry since 1945*

Contemporary American poetry can often seem intimidating and daunting in its variety and complexity. This engaging and accessible book provides the first comprehensive introduction to the rich body of American poetry that has flourished since 1945 and offers a useful map to its current landscape. By exploring the major poets, movements, and landmark poems at the heart of this era, this book presents a compelling new version of the history of American poetry that takes into account its variety and breadth, its recent evolution in the new millennium, its ever-increasing diversity, and its ongoing engagement with politics and culture. Combining illuminating close readings of a wide range of representative poems with detailed discussion of historical, political, and aesthetic contexts, this book examines how poets have tirelessly invented new forms and styles to respond to the complex realities of American life and culture.

Andrew Epstein is Professor of English at Florida State University. He is the author of *Attention Equals Life: The Pursuit of the Everyday in Contemporary Poetry and Culture* and *Beautiful Enemies: Friendship and Postwar American Poetry*, and he blogs about the New York School of poetry at *Locus Solus*.

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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi – 110025, India
103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108482370
DOI: 10.1017/9781108687317

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First published 2023

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Epstein, Andrew, 1969– author.

Title: The Cambridge introduction to American poetry since 1945 / Andrew Epstein.

Description: Cambridge ; New York, NY : Cambridge University Press, 2023. |

Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2022026523 | ISBN 9781108482370 (hardback) | ISBN 9781108687317 (ebook)

Subjects: LCSH: American poetry – 20th century – History and criticism. |

American poetry – 21st century – History and criticism.

Classification: LCC PS323.5 .E673 2023 | DDC 811/.5409–dc23/eng/20221003

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2022026523>

ISBN 978-1-108-48237-0 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-108-71212-5 Paperback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Cambridge University Press & Assessment

978-1-108-48237-0 — The Cambridge Introduction to American Poetry since 1945

Andrew Epstein

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For my parents

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Acknowledgments

I have been reading and studying post-1945 American poetry for almost as long as I can remember, and I am indebted to the many wonderful teachers who kindled and nurtured my fascination with the poetry of this period – from favorite early English teachers (Edward Solecki and Howard Glatt), to Kimberly Benston, James Ransom, and Thomas Jackson (at Haverford College and Bryn Mawr College), to Jonathan Levin, Ann Douglas, Ursula Heise, Edward Mendelson, David Lehman, and the late Kenneth Koch (at Columbia University).

This book would not exist without the encouragement of Ray Ryan at Cambridge University Press – I am very grateful for his guidance, support, and patience. I also wish to thank the anonymous readers who read the manuscript for the Press at various stages for their very helpful advice and suggestions, along with the editorial and production staff at Cambridge University Press for all their assistance in bringing this book to life.

I also want to express my thanks to the many scholars, poets, friends, and former students far and wide who have talked about post-1945 poetry with me and have helped shape my sense of American poetry and its possibilities, its history, and its present, including Kaveh Akbar, Robert Archambeau, Erin Belieu, Christopher Breu, Stephanie Burt, Rona Cran, Rachel Blau DuPlessis, Steve Evans, Andy Fitch, Stephen Fredman, Brian Glavey, Alan Golding, Paul Jaussen, Kamran Javadizadeh, Daniel Kane, Evan Kindley, Peter Kunze, Ben Lee, Paige Lewis, Brian McHale, Jennifer Moxley, Aldon Nielsen, Paul Outka, Elizabeth Outka, Marjorie Perloff, Seth Perlow, Claudia Rankine, Susan Rosenbaum, Lisi Schoenbach, Yasmine Shamma, Michael Thurston, Tom Tooley, Gillian White, Johanna Winant, and Robert Zamsky. Deep thanks, also, to old friends with less daily investment in literature but whose friendship has continued to be a ballast, even (or especially) in the age of Zoom and social distance, including Jane McPherson and Jon Jefferson, Shannon Novey and Joe Williams, and Ashby Jones and the rest of the jumbo Haverford gang.

At Florida State University, I wish to thank my recent department chairs, Eric Walker and Gary Taylor, and my terrific colleagues both in the English

x *Acknowledgments*

Department and beyond, for all their friendship, support, and good cheer, which have been especially welcome over the past few trying years, including Robert Olen Butler, John Corrigan, Lindsey Eckert, Leigh Edwards, Barry Faulk, Laurel Fulkerson, Alisha Gaines, Stan Gontarski, Robin Goodman, Barbara Hamby, Ravi Howard, Skip Horack, Aaron Jaffe, David Johnson, Martin Kavka, Meegan Kennedy, John Mac Kilgore, Jimmy Kimbrell, David Kirby, John Marincola, Judith Pascoe, John Ribó, Diane Roberts, Robert Stilling, Elizabeth Stuckey-French, the late, sorely missed Ned Stuckey-French, Candace Ward, Cy. Jillian Weise, Lamar Wilson, and Mark Winegardner. I'm also indebted to all the amazing undergraduate and graduate students, far too many to name, who have spent time hashing out post-1945 American poetry with me over the years and from whom I've learned so much about the poetry of this era.

Above all, my deepest thanks go to my family – my sister and brother-in-law, Laura and Larry Rosen; my in-laws, Phyllis and Steven Gross; my brother and sister-in-law Jason and Cauty Gross; and my nieces and nephew – for all their love and support. I am profoundly grateful to my children, who cheered me on as I wrote this book, offered wise counsel, and continuously inspired me with their insights and humor. It makes me absurdly happy that Casey Epstein-Gross has grown up to be someone who studies poetry and writes the stuff herself (and exceptionally well at that) – thanks for the countless hours talking shop and discussing poems, for being my sounding board and all-round companion in poetry and music. Dylan Epstein-Gross's inclinations may tend more STEM-ward, but his enthusiastic interest in and support for my work, not to mention his innate love of language and its possibilities, have been a godsend. My wife, Kara Gross, has been such a steady source of love, encouragement, wisdom, and fun for so long that it is impossible to know where to begin or end with my debts of gratitude: This book, like so much else, simply wouldn't exist without her.

I dedicate this book to my parents, Ellen and Leonard Epstein, whose seemingly infinite amounts of love and support have continued to inspire and sustain me. Words cannot begin to express how grateful I am to them for everything – not least for first opening my eyes to a whole vast world of literature, art, and ideas, and for helping me to enter and spend my life exploring it.