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PRESS RELEASE

Reconstruction: A Journey of Resilience and Renewal

Published by flipped eye in April 2024



***Reconstruction* by Aoife Mannix – 18th April 2024 (Poetry)**

flipped eye publishing, one of the UK's leading independent publishers of compelling literature that matters, announces the forthcoming release of *Reconstruction* on April 18th, 2024. This collection of poetry, penned by Irish author, Aoife Mannix, documents her journey through cancer recovery amidst the backdrop of a global pandemic.

Through the lens of personal and physical metamorphosis, Mannix reflects on pivotal moments from her childhood and adolescence. Blending elements of fantasy and reality, Aoife Mannix offers fresh perspectives on familiar tales like the Land of Oz, while also lamenting the loss of small, human connections amidst the looming threat of environmental collapse.

Despite its weighty themes, Mannix's voice remains intimate and authentic throughout "Reconstruction". The poems within resonate with raw emotion, yet they are balanced by vivid imagery and a commitment to clarity, inviting readers to engage with her narrative journey. At its core, this collection celebrates the stabilizing forces of love, empathy, and imagination in the face of adversity.



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This collection is important to Mannix as it “marks some very difficult years in my life, a time when I was afraid I would not live to see these poems published. I was diagnosed with breast cancer when my son was two and a half years old. I experienced an anaphylactic shock during my mastectomy that meant I had to be put into a medically induced coma from which it was uncertain I would ever wake. Just as I was recovering from the shock of this, the world entered lockdown because of a global pandemic. I was hospitalised for covid followed by suffering from long covid for over a year. What got me through was the overwhelming love I have for my son and the power of poetry to make connections with others who are also struggling to make sense of this crazy, beautiful planet we all share. I want these poems to offer hope in dark places, to show how love can survive even the hardest of times, and that it is possible to begin again with a new appreciation of how precious life is”.

Renowned poet, Roger Robinson, praises "Reconstruction" for its profound contribution to the literary exploration of illness, calling it “An important book for all especially in a time when illness and reconstruction have been so much a part of our current focus”.

Publishing original poetry and ambitious prose on a not-for-profit model since 2001, flipped eye is a lean, reader-focussed, writer-loving support system for culture that matters. Founded by editor and award-winning writer Nii Ayikwei Parkes, flipped eye has won global critical acclaim since its inception, launching the careers of writers such as **Roger Robinson, Inua Ellams, Malika Booker, Miriam Nash, Nick Makoha and Warsan Shire.**

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Notes to editors



RECONSTRUCTION by Aoife Mannix

Published by flipped eye

Drama £8.95

ISBN: 9781905233830

18th April 2024



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About flipped eye

Founded in 2001 by Nii Ayikwei Parkes, an editor and award-winning writer, flipped eye publishing has won global critical acclaim, playing a key role in developing poets of note.

Always at the forefront of innovation in the publishing world, they were one of the first publishers in the world to have a regular subscription mailing list (in 2005) as well as a regular podcast – the hugely popular Poem of the Week Redux, with readings from the likes of Roger Robinson, Warsan Shire, Inua Ellams and Malika Booker – in 2010.

Through their diversity and commitment, they have been one of the most imitated small presses in the UK for years. Their *mouthmark* poetry series – a ground-breaking, goal-focussed chapbook collection – revolutionised pamphlet publishing in the UK. Launched in 2004 with the first book released in 2005, it was the first time that a series was dedicated to developing writers with a slant towards transposing the energy of the stage to the page. The goal-focussed approach has since been imitated by the likes of Tall Lighthouse and Faber, but what remains unique about the *mouthmark* series, is that it was run on an incredible budget of £300 per title, and sold on at an affordable price.

Their writers are Latinx, Queer, White, Intersex, degree holders, graduates from the school of life, Black, Gay, old, young, Asian, Straight ... and they all feel heard and at home with flipped eye publishing, expressing themselves with freedom, creating affirming and challenging work.

About Aoife Mannix



Aoife Mannix was born in Sweden of Irish parents. She grew up in Dublin, Ottawa and New York before moving to the UK. She is a poet and writer, the author of a novel, five collections of poetry and six libretti. She has been poet-in-residence for, among others, the Royal Shakespeare Company and BBC Radio 4's Saturday Live. She has toured internationally with the British Council. She has previously worked as a script editor for the BBC as well as for Channel 4 and the Royal Court Theatre. She has a PhD in creative and life writing from Goldsmiths, University of London. She lives in Oxfordshire.
