



REUNION FRUIT SYNERGY

**REUNION
FRUIT
SYNERGY**

K WEBER & FRIENDS

INTRO

When I started this project to commemorate 5 years of collaborating with others and writing poems that infused words they donated, I only knew I wanted to write 5 poems. Other ideas as to how the poems would be constructed or what they would be about just sort of fell into place along the way as ideas would build onto new ideas.

I received a total of 82 words from 82 people for REUNION FRUIT SYNERGY!

REUNION FRUIT SYNERGY, the title itself, was one of the first elements of this project that I put together using words from previously-published collaborations. I looked at hundreds of words that I have maintained in a spreadsheet the last few years, knowing something would gel! It took a bit longer than I thought, but when I saw the word "reunion" (donated by **Ashley Elizabeth** for the poem "Overlook" from TEAMWORDK), I knew it was a perfect fit.

This compilation may feature new poems and some new contributors, but it ultimately revisits and honors everything accomplished with these projects the last 5 years. With a reunion underway, I felt the title needed a little something else. I paired the word in my head with other words from projects past. Eventually I saw the word "fruit" (donated by **Marcelle Newbold** for the same poem where "reunion" originated) and thought about how these poems are the fruit of lots of labor of love in poetry. When I saw the word "synergy" (donated by **Lisa Lerma Weber** for the poem "The Narrowing, The Fitting In" from THIS ASSEMBLY), it seemed to complete just the right trio of words for the title - defining the overall essence of this project wherein many people come together and create something bigger! I think the title is such a perfect fit!

Anxious to put the 82 donated words into poems, but not in a way where I could "easily" put words I felt fit best together, I assigned each word a number in the order received. I asked the first word donor (I love firsts! Beginnings! Starts!) to this project to select how many words would be in each of the 5 poems... without seeing the words themselves. Done! From there, I reached out to the 5th word donor (It's the 5th anniversary after all!) to select which words would be in each of the 5 poems... only by selecting the numbers corresponding to the words I had collected... without seeing the actual words! Done! I am the luckiest to have contributors who enjoy some of the bonus pieces I add to the puzzle. From here, each of the 5 poems has some additional, unique attributes alongside the heart of these poems which are, OF COURSE, those donated words!

It is such a reward to be able to reflect on how the donated words poems began, on April 22, 2018, (when I wrote the "Begonias" poem as a poetry month prompt-response using words selected by a few friends) and how they have continued these last 5 years! The urge to write these sorts of poems and create collections out of them has been fairly consistent throughout, and it is great reconnecting with people who participate again and again as well as finding new collaborators. Taking a pile of mostly disparate words and turning them into poems that almost probably actually do make sense and are cohesive feels like good magic.

These poems go lots of places beyond my own go-to themes. This allows me to dive into new territory subject-wise. These poems don't always happen so effortlessly, but they happen, gloriously! Donated words and other donated parts end up playing together very well!

It is important to note that this collection is best enjoyed in order; from the GETTING STARTED section and then from first to last poem. That is how I worked, logically, through this project and it gives a taste of not only the resulting poems but how a lot of attributes were decided!!!

Thank you for taking the time to explore these new poems and for any and all enjoyment of the noteworthy projects that comprise the donated words poetry series as a whole. Together, these span 5 really good years of collaborative poetry!

K Weber
May 2023

I am elated to share that **302 people** have contributed to **78 donated words poems** across **5 collections** created **between 2018 and 2023**:

- * **THIS ASSEMBLY** (2019)
- * **TEAMWORDK** (2021)
- * **A SUM OF OUR POETIC PARTS: VOL. 1** (2022)
- * **A SUM OF OUR POETIC PARTS: VOL. 2** (2023)
- * **REUNION FRUIT SYNERGY** (2023)

and 1 series I post each autumn/Halloween-time:

- * **SCREAMWORDK** (2021 & 2022 w/ more to come in 2023 & 2024)

701 words have been put in my care by these 302 individuals as well as other collaborative pieces such as: **59 contributed original lines & 4 donated titles & 4 pieces of artwork** that acted as inspiration for ekphrastic poems & **3 donated themes & other donated elements** (editorial assistance, cover art, items chosen by polls, music-related twists, and many delightful quotes/blurbs were written about these projects!)

Of the 78 total poems, **69 poems were written by me** while **4 were a joint effort resulting in Exquisite Corpse poems** & the remaining **5 were written exclusively by others!!!**

These numbers are beautifully overwhelming in the best possible way!!! We have accomplished so much just through simple acts of poetic goodness, starting from one small thought about writing poems with others to trying new things, taking these poems in all sorts of directions and creating something truly unique!

GETTING STARTED WITH THESE POEMS!

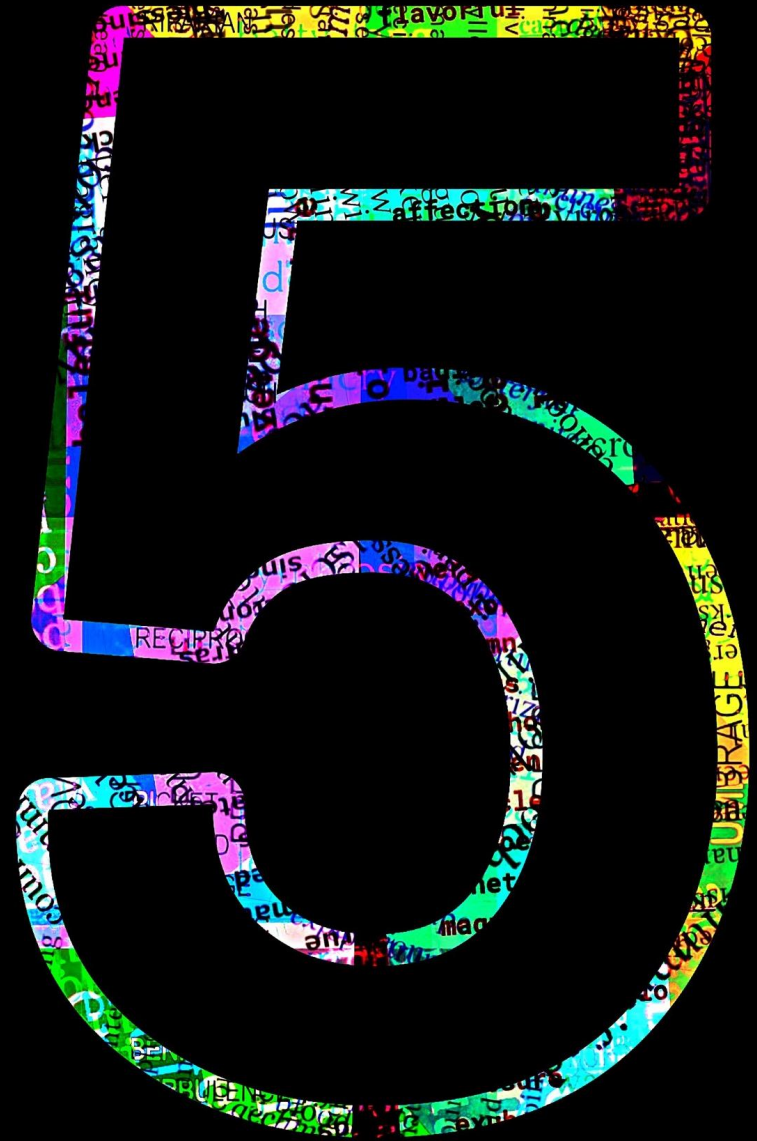
As mentioned in the introduction, these 5 poems initially came together with the help of the 1st (again, I love beginnings!) and 5th (in honor of this 5th anniversary collection) word donors to REUNION FRUIT SYNERGY.

The 1st word donor, **Jenna Mia**, selected how many of the donated words would be in each of the 5 poems. I am so grateful Jenna took part in this extra and special facet of the project... without seeing any of the 82 words provided! Here is how many words were chosen to be in each poem:

POEM 1: 11 words
POEM 2: 22 words
POEM 3: 15 words
POEM 4: 23 words
POEM 5: 11 words

The 5th word donor, **Kellie Scott-Reed**, took on the huge task of picking out which words would go into each of the 5 poems. The twist here is that Kellie did not see any of the actual words. She chose only by numbers - the ones I assigned to each word behind the scenes! So appreciative to get a truly randomized set of words to work with for each poem!!!

The added assistance from Jenna and Kellie carries through all of the REUNION FRUIT SYNERGY poems. Gigantic thanks to these two for partaking in these 2 very important and fun opportunities!!!



A LITTLE HELP?

I found the depths of my south first. It would take years to travel to my body's **north**. What could not

articulate from the **larynx** arrived through fingers. Adept instruments held my hand. I could not hold

me. Yet. I was **exasperated**, too easily; screamed on the inside. Unsaid things but wrote question-

able remarks. No debate, just a last **smash** putting anger to ink. I was **deleterious**, even on the blankest

sheet after I was unslept. Then I accepted rashness: my **errant** ways turned to paper's magic. Later, I asked

without saying (as I do) and you and you said "yes" more than once. A **rill** of letters poured toward me. I sipped

them until giddy. I sailed upon. My longed-for wellspring sprouted the **elaborate** stanza, the at-ease

page, together. A **panacea** of words and a **pâtisserie** of poems emerged and here, five years, I pretend to merely

acquiesce. Every time you say "yes," my palms and heart relax into thriving smiles.

Roanna Fernandes - north

Mindo - larynx

Cassie Coletta - exasperated

Zarana Patel - smash

Jenna Mia - deleterious

Ronita Chattopadhyay - errant

Merril D. Smith - rill

Cheryl Paquay - elaborate

Preston Smith - panacea

François Bereaud - pâtisserie

Patrick Dorsey - acquiesce

donated title

"A little help?"

Clint Ladd

AN ODE TO OW & OM

The **ambuscade** of wait and worry brings a **defenestration** of symptoms that gnash and gnarl, pleading for **epiphany**. Distress seems **constant** by way of **brackish** back, hang-nail or heartbreak. Pang is menthol, not a **bloom** of **peppermint**. Nerves **accost** the **epithelium**. An internal **skirl** has distinctive **dissonance**. That yelp of wince and whelm. But

those moments (when barely an ounce of **substantial** quench can surface): hold on for the **silver** of a day, rising into **fervent**, feverless cooling. Overcome **blockage** and effortlessly enter the **organic** shift. Even if it seems as **tactile** as **algebra** or **lackluster** as beige. Look toward the brightness of a **kingfisher** even if it is a dream. Tell your story in **clandestine** spaces or soothing **soliloquy**.

Josh Line - ambuscade

Margot Stillings - defenestration

Tiffany M Storrs - epiphany

Mathew Yates - constant

John Homan - brackish

Kellie Scott-Reed - bloom

Spangle McQueen - peppermint

Jacob Charles - accost

Oormila Vijayakrishnan Prahlad - epithelium

Clint Ladd - skirl

Jeff Weber - dissonance

Norb Aikin - substantial

Linda Crate - silver

Stephanie Benton - fervent

Melissa Flores Anderson - blockage

Ivor Daniel - organic

Lee Potts - tactile

Robert Lee Brewer - algebra

Rebecca Bushor - lackluster

Simon Williams - kingfisher

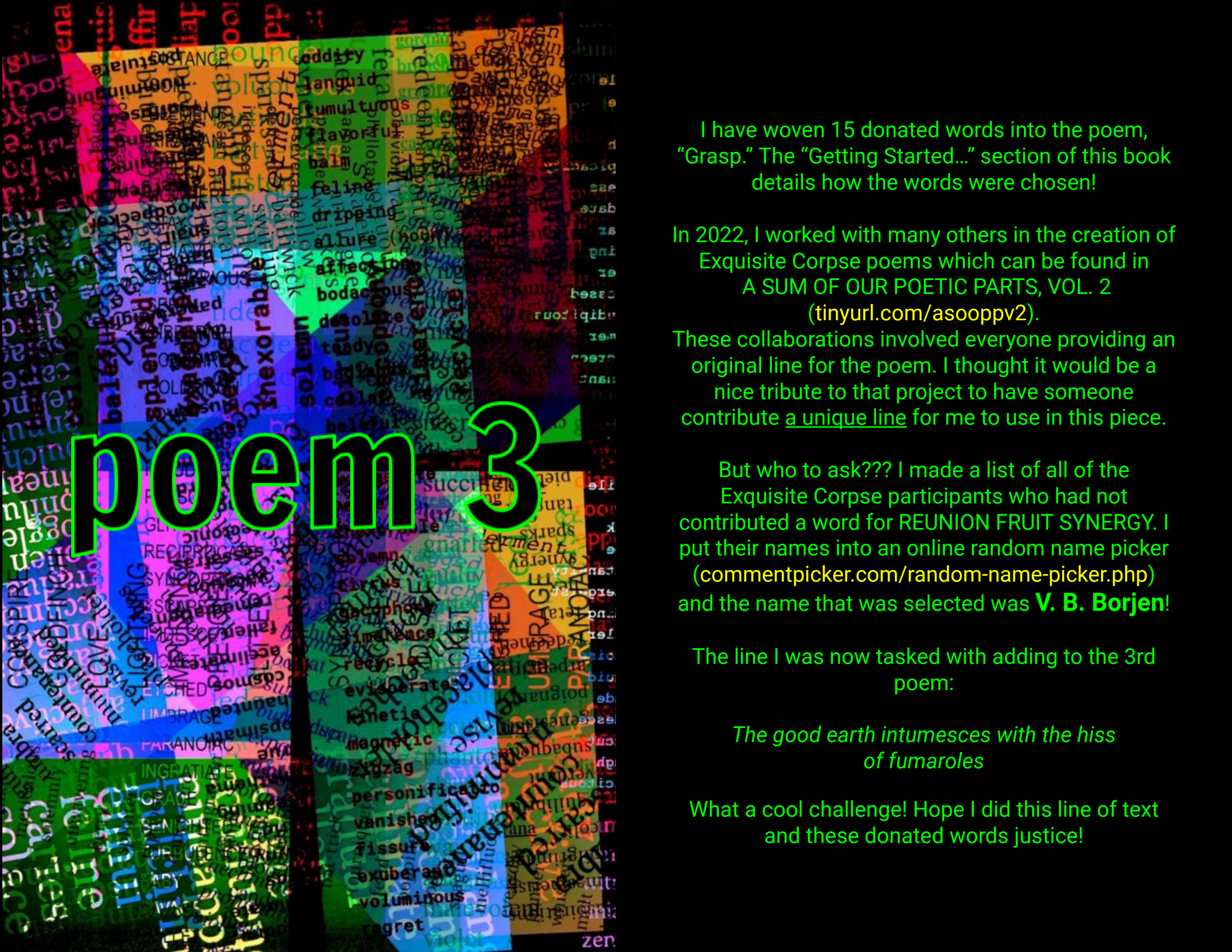
Aubri Kaufman - clandestine

Katy Haas - soliloquy

donated theme

overcoming pain

Oormila Vijayakrishnan Prahlad



I have woven 15 donated words into the poem, "Grasp." The "Getting Started..." section of this book details how the words were chosen!

In 2022, I worked with many others in the creation of Exquisite Corpse poems which can be found in *A SUM OF OUR POETIC PARTS, VOL. 2* (tinyurl.com/asooppv2).

These collaborations involved everyone providing an original line for the poem. I thought it would be a nice tribute to that project to have someone contribute a unique line for me to use in this piece.

But who to ask??? I made a list of all of the Exquisite Corpse participants who had not contributed a word for REUNION FRUIT SYNERGY. I put their names into an online random name picker (commentpicker.com/random-name-picker.php) and the name that was selected was **V. B. Borjen!**

The line I was now tasked with adding to the 3rd poem:

*The good earth intumesces with the hiss
of fumaroles*

What a cool challenge! Hope I did this line of text and these donated words justice!

poem 3

GRASP

The daze of **acedia** arrives, long-lingering and body-draggled. Want for a **blissful** sleep

won't come. We **start** the day anyway, earlier, **weave** fingers through grass and dirt like scouring

the attic for a dead relative's **bric-a-brac**. We stuff our faces with **fireweed** to put out the budding blaze

of a purplish, **dragon** hunger. Before we foraged for each other, **haustorium** poked in **vicious** strokes

seeking to suck the life away, **corybantic** and eager. **The good earth intumescences with the hiss of fumaroles,**

emits omission whether we are **together** or pushing apart, **immiscible**. A **composer** puts water into the glass. Sound

becomes **visible** with a finger's print. Touch reverberates the rim. Here's to **soaking** our over-grinned bones.

Barton Smock - acedia

Jen Bockrath - blissful

Jackie Ferguson - start

Ankh Spice - weave

Brian Carr - bric-a-brac

Lolo Elleri - fireweed

JW Summerisle - dragon

tamre martin - haustorium

Sara Matson - vicious

Marie Marchand - corybantic

c m taylor - together

Jay Garner - immiscible

Joe Liston - composer

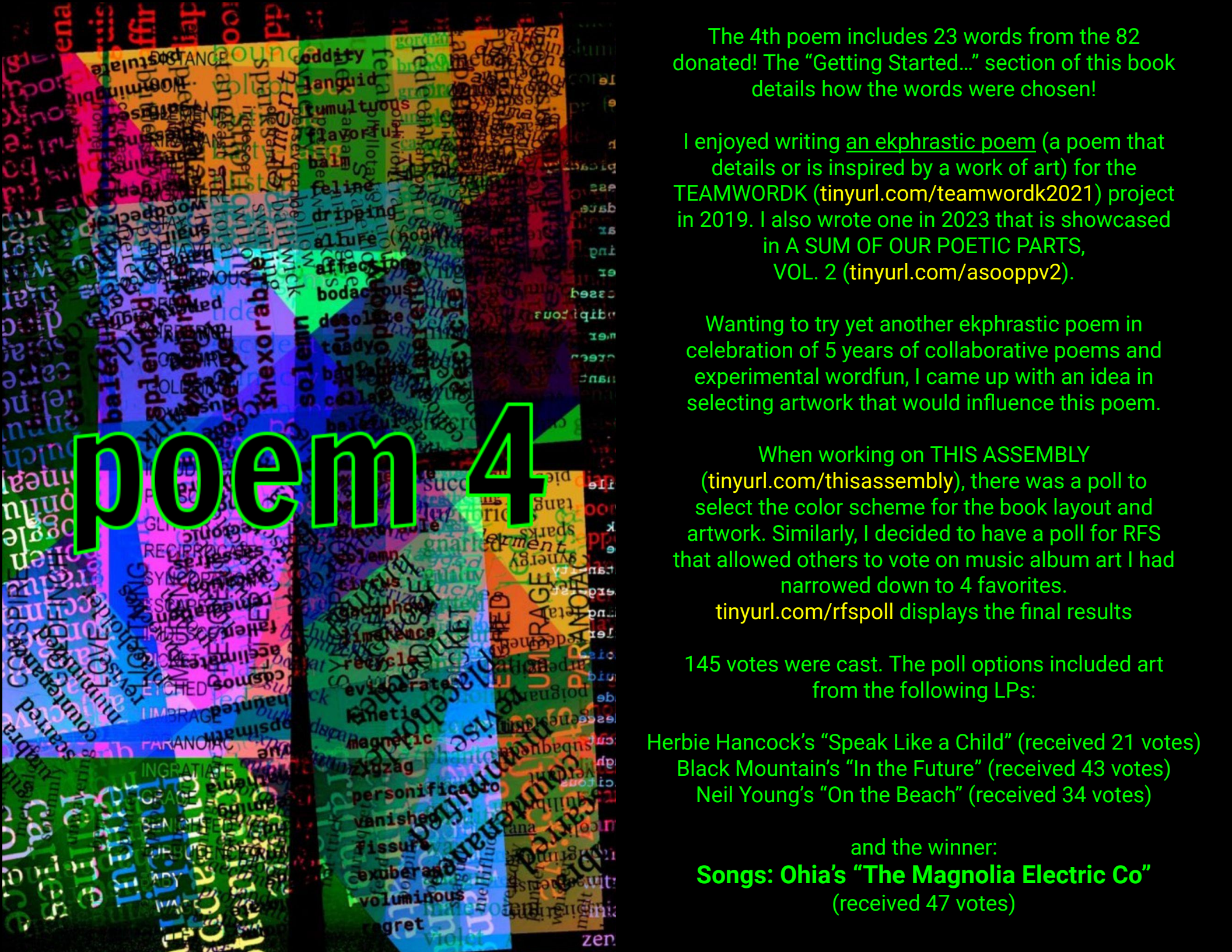
Annie Finch - visible

Adrian Ernesto Cepeda - soaking

donated line

"The good earth intumescences with the hiss of fumaroles"

V. B. Borjen



The 4th poem includes 23 words from the 82 donated! The “Getting Started...” section of this book details how the words were chosen!

I enjoyed writing an ekphrastic poem (a poem that details or is inspired by a work of art) for the TEAMWORDK (tinyurl.com/teamwordk2021) project in 2019. I also wrote one in 2023 that is showcased in A SUM OF OUR POETIC PARTS, VOL. 2 (tinyurl.com/asooppv2).

Wanting to try yet another ekphrastic poem in celebration of 5 years of collaborative poems and experimental wordfun, I came up with an idea in selecting artwork that would influence this poem.

When working on THIS ASSEMBLY (tinyurl.com/thisassembly), there was a poll to select the color scheme for the book layout and artwork. Similarly, I decided to have a poll for RFS that allowed others to vote on music album art I had narrowed down to 4 favorites.

tinyurl.com/rfspoll displays the final results

145 votes were cast. The poll options included art from the following LPs:

- Herbie Hancock’s “Speak Like a Child” (received 21 votes)
- Black Mountain’s “In the Future” (received 43 votes)
- Neil Young’s “On the Beach” (received 34 votes)

and the winner:

Songs: Ohia’s “The Magnolia Electric Co”
(received 47 votes)

The album art photos used in the poll came from my own record collection. The poem inspired by the winning artwork relied only on the artwork shown. I did not refer to any songs or lyrics on the album, etc.



THE VAGUE

In the blue-black aftermath of **revolution**: white-yellow flowers that are not daisies **illuminate** against the tender **bravado** of **incandescent** thunder. Underneath lightning, they **electrify** the days that resemble overnights. The owl

of no **scowl** has heart, but with sleepy, tear-sagged eyes. Its human hands say *wait*. And there may be **sanctuary** in the pause of this moment. And **recovery** as claws hovering the **cellophane** ground. Far away, a skeleton

crouched that once was a bird; **fraught** with frailty & **waning** in a thin man's clothes. Even wandering alone, the shape of this body shows something has been **obsequious** too long – an ache for the ache of **autonomy**. But this bird

with no brain is **curious** amid the **lullaby** time of deep-dark; clutches a small pyramid paper-weight like it holds a child's hope. Will it keep everything down? The shell of a bird takes its stolen legs, tip-toes bare feet. If these two meet:

will it be in **froideur** or **jocundity**; succumbing to the **incubus** of the unknown? Will they **rummage** through stray objects? Rebuild a new world? Fix an **elixir** and enjoy **transcendental** love and light? Or simply coexist in the **murmur**

of no **embrace**?

Ashley Elizabeth - revolution

Lesley Curwen - illuminate

Samantha Lamph/Len - bravado

Douglas Menagh - incandescent

Beth Amber - electrify

Aleah Dye - scowl

Rhona Greene - sanctuary

Daniel (ChemoMonk) Ellicey - recovery

Heather Sweeney - cellophane

Ankit Raj Ojha - fraught

Kim Mannix - waning

Casi Lombardo - obsequious

Rachel Hunt - autonomy

Melissa Nunez - curious

Kyla Houbolt - lullaby

Tiffany Sciacca - froideur

Carla Marchal - jocundity

Glenn Barker - incubus

Dave - rummage

Tejaswinee Roychowdhury - elixir

Letitia Jiju - transcendental

Xine Wilkins Xiong - murmur

Karen Pierce Gonzalez - embrace



poem 5

In the final poem of the donated words poetry 5th year anniversary collection, I worked with 11 words given to me by others. The "Getting Started..." section of this book details how the words were chosen!

I thought it might be fun to have someone take the remaining words and have me put them in the order of their choosing. Since the number 5 is so important in this 5th anniversary collection, I asked the 5th word donor to the 5th poem in TEAMWORDK, **Kate Garrett**, to rearrange the 11 words in the order I must use them when writing the poem. Kate actually did get to see the words!

And why stop there? One last thing I wanted to try was having someone select the very last word of this poem. Any word! I reached out to the person who has donated the most words to my poems over the last 5 years. **Kyla Houbolt** reaches her 16th word contribution over the last 5 years with *pelt*!

Kyla also has participated in other donated words poems where she provided 2 original lines. She also wrote a quote for the series of blurbs a generous group of people supplied to give an idea of the importance of the donated words poems!
AND: Kyla has now participated in all 6 of the donated words poem projects!

CELEBRATION ALL AROUND!!!

NOTE TO YOURSELF

I'm not **lost** on your **cliffside**, atop sedimentary
accretion. My own layers are enough. I'm
too **foxlike** with nerves beyond
perioptic. I scan and sniff
into the **crepuscular**
evening. Stars
silvered
and winked. I
ignored their
flirtation.

Humidity did not
drench or unquench
me. All things obscured,
recondite, do not dissuade
me. This is **resplendent**: my fur
so permanent, my warmest **tattoo**. (& you won't pelt my pelt.)

Cory Funk - lost

S Cearley - cliffside

Jason Melvin - accretion

Nadia Gerassimenko - foxlike

Mark Antony Owen - perioptic

Jay Parr - crepuscular

Emma Bolden - silvered

Melinda Farrar - humidity

Will Davis - recondite

Elizabeth Preston - resplendent

Cecilia Savala - tattoo

Kate Garrett put the words in the order I had to use them

Kyla Houbolt provided the final word in this poem: "pelt"

THANK YOU!

A huge thanks to all who contributed to this very special 5th anniversary collection! I am so dazzled and dizzied with gratitude to know that, even after a half-decade, people are still interested in helping me create collaborative poetry experiences. Commemorating this milestone has been so much fun!

Monumental appreciation to the 302 people who have contributed a total of 701 words to my donated words projects as well as themes, original lines, art and so much more since 2018! I am so lucky to have so many people who continue to take part in and support these lively efforts!

High-fives to all who encourage new, collaborative poetry experiences by creating prompts and other forms of interactions that include others.

Extra thanks to the Dayton Metro Library, who awarded me 3rd place in their 2023 poetry contest (Adults category). I received this recognition during the time I was compiling this book!

Thanks for reading REUNION FRUIT SYNERGY! I am overjoyed that you took the time to read these poems! Perhaps you will participate in the future or look at some of the past projects I have done that involve donated words?!!

As I have said in several of these collaborative projects:

It never gets old when people say they can't wait to see how I crafted a poem containing their word selection. One word can change a day, a mood, the world.

THANK YOU SO MUCH AGAIN!!!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



K Weber is an Ohio poet. REUNION FRUIT SYNERGY is her 9th online, free, self-published poetry project. Her poetry has been featured in *Roi Fainéant*, *The Hooghly Review*, *Fevers of the Mind*, *the minison project*, *Writer's Digest*, *Bullshit Lit & more!*

Additionally, K's photography has appeared in literary magazines such as *Barren Magazine* and *Nightingale & Sparrow*. Her book reviews have appeared in *Empty Mirror*.

K received her BA in Creative Writing/Poetry from Miami University in 1999. She also earned minors in French and Computer Information Systems.

More of her publishing credits and access to all of her online book projects can be found at:

kweberandherwords.com

OTHER BOOKS BY K WEBER

click on the book cover images to access these FREE, online poetry book projects and more about them.

you can also go to kweberandherwords.com to access these books in PDF and/or audio versions!



2023



2022



2021



2019



2018



2014



2012



2003

SPECIAL NOTES

AUDIOBOOK VERSION

There is no audiobook being released concurrently as a companion to REUNION FRUIT SYNERGY. I do hope to accomplish this before the end of 2023! Follow me on social media or look for an update at kweberandherwords.com when that is made available. 7 of my previously-published projects (including 3 donated words compilations) have audio versions accessible any time if you'd like to listen!

Thank you for your patience!



CONTACT DETAILS

Want to connect online? That would be nice!

My social media information is as follows:

- Instagram: [instagram.com/midwesternskirt](https://www.instagram.com/midwesternskirt)
- Twitter: twitter.com/midwesternskirt

You can send me a message through the form on my website: kweberandherwords.com/contact

PRAISE FOR DONATED WORDS POEM PROJECTS

REUNION FRUIT SYNERGY is one of several writing projects I have put together since 2018 that involves collaboration with many others! Hundreds of words have been gifted to me by hundreds of people to include in so many poems. When I was working on TEAMWORDK in 2021, I asked if anyone would like to put together feedback in the form of a short quote or blurb about their participation in and readership of donated words poems. I received an abundance of responses! You can read all of these generous quotes in this supplementary document: tinyurl.com/donatedquotes

This will remain a “living document” to which I will continue to add write-ups about our collaborative poetry projects!

If you would like to share your experiences and thoughts on these poetry projects, you can connect with me through email and social media under *CONTACT DETAILS*! So much gratitude to all who have provided me with thoughtful words and perspective regarding these collaborative efforts!

Looking for an interesting interview subject?

I would love the opportunity to discuss the donated words poetry projects with you!

There is so much to dive into when it comes to these vast and longstanding poetry collaborations in which I work together with a plethora of people and such a blissful array of carefully-furnished words!

Want to write a review of any of my donated words projects (THIS ASSEMBLY, TEAMWORDK, A SUM OF OUR POETIC PARTS: VOL. 1, A SUM OF OUR POETIC PARTS: VOL. 2 and/or REUNION FRUIT SYNERGY)?

This would be such a welcome addition to the continued capturing of the ways in which the donated words poem projects impact others!

If you need someone to fill an open slot at your online poetry event (or in-person if you are local), I wouldn't mind being asked! It's been awhile! You can always contact me if you would like to send along a word or other suggestion for future collaborative poems! Follow me on Instagram and/or Twitter (username: **midwesternskirt**) for future calls for word contributions or DM me! I am excited to continue a tradition of partnering with others in poetry!

Thank you so much for engaging with REUNION FRUIT SYNERGY!!

