

Poet and editor Maggie Dietz is the author of *Perennial Fall* (University of Chicago Press, 2006), which won New Hampshire's Jane Kenyon Award for Outstanding Book of Poetry in 2007, and *That Kind of Happy* (University of Chicago Press, 2016). For many years, Dietz directed the Favorite Poem Project, Robert Pinsky's special undertaking during his tenure as U.S. Poet Laureate, and is co-editor of three anthologies related to the project: *Americans' Favorite Poems*, *Poems to Read*, and *An Invitation to Poetry*. Her awards include the Grolier Poetry Prize, the George Bennett Fellowship at Phillips Exeter Academy, as well as fellowships from the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, and the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts. Her work appears widely in journals such as *Poetry*, *Ploughshares*, *The Threepenny Review*, *AGNI*, and *Salmagundi*. She is currently Assistant Professor in English at the University of Massachusetts Lowell and a visiting lecturer in Boston University's MFA program. She lives in New Hampshire with her husband, Todd Hearon, and their two children.

Born and raised in Green Bay, Wisconsin, Dietz earned a BA at Northwestern University and an MA in creative writing at Boston University. When reading Dietz's poems, one can often sense an aperture widening or constricting as she deftly engages the movement of light and shadow across natural and human cycles. Describing Dietz's best work as "intimate, idiomatic and thoroughly original," David Kirby in a 2006 *New York Times* review of *Perennial Fall* observed, "Dietz's lippy candor is invigorating in a wish-I'd-thought-of-that way, and it's a pleasure to be led through her world as she looks at familiar subjects with fresh eyes."

Poet, playwright, and essayist Todd Hearon grew up in North Carolina. He received an MA in Irish studies from Boston College and a PhD in editorial studies from Boston University. Hearon's lyric, sometimes formal poems are rich with allusion and historical reference even as they engage contemporary culture. In a 2007 interview for the *Exeter Bulletin*, Hearon noted, "I have been faced with the new artistic problem (new for me, not for art) of how to find a place in my poems for the ugly, the treacherous, the false, the banal—things that have always, of course, been there, but that seemed to have floated to the surface of my consciousness, stayed put, and sought expression."

His poetry collection *Strange Land* (2010) was selected by poet Natasha Trethewey as a winner of the Crab Orchard Poetry Series in Poetry Open Competition Award. His second collection of poems, *No Other Gods* (Salmon Poetry, 2015), was a finalist for the Lexi Rudnitsky/Editor's Choice Award, the May Swenson Poetry Award, and the Vassar Miller Poetry Prize. He has received a PEN/New England "Discovery" Award; the Friends of Literature Prize from *Poetry* magazine and the Poetry Foundation; the Rumi Prize in Poetry (*Arts & Letters*); and the Campbell Corner Poetry Prize (Sarah Lawrence College). His poetry has been anthologized in *Best New Poets 2007* and his poems have appeared in *AGNI*, *Ploughshares*, *Slate*, *The New Republic*, *Southern Review* and other journals. Hearon has also received the Dobie Paisano Fellowship from the University of Texas at Austin.

While at Boston University, Hearon co-founded the Bridge Theatre Company, a troupe dedicated to classical and contemporary verse drama. Active as both actor and director, Hearon has won the Paul Green Playwrights Prize. In 2015, Hearon served as the Dartmouth Poet-in-Residence at the Frost Place in Franconia, NH, and currently teaches literature and writing at Phillips Exeter Academy. He lives in New Hampshire with his wife, Maggie Dietz, and their two children.