

UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL BULLETIN
ANNOUNCEMENT

Florida International University
University Graduate School

Master's Thesis Defense

Abstract

Hallelujah Shoes

by

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HALLELUJAH SHOES is a collection of poems, many of them grounded in the landscape and vernacular of rural and coastal North Florida. While most of the poems are written in free verse, the collection also contains poems written in traditional and nontraditional forms: abcederian, haiku, sonnet, noun, and theatrical play. The collection is organized into three sections. The first section is dominated by the narrator's relationships with family and culture—their demands, dramas, and allures—and the conflict they create with the narrator's desire for autonomy and sexual expression. In the second section, the focus turns to the narrator as she makes her own way in the world, exercising independence yet still subject to the emotional undertow of childhood experiences. Section three locates the narrator in the present, back in Florida after many years away, with knowledge and acceptance of the inherent transience of life, and the determination to take joy where she can find it.

Many of the poems are influenced by the conversational rhythms found in the works of Tony Hoagland, David Kirby, and Barbara Hamby. Thematically, however, the poems are more reminiscent of the work of James Wright—emotionally extravagant at times, and steeped in a sense of place, loss, and the difficulties and mysteries of the human condition.

Date: March 4, 2010

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Place: AC1 306, Biscayne Bay Campus

Department: Creative Writing

Major Professor: Campbell McGrath