

**FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
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PROPOSAL FOR CREATIVE THESIS

FORMS OF EXODUS

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FORMS OF EXODUS is a poetry collection thematically unified through recurring images of wings, flight, maps, and emotional or geographic dislocation. These images emerge as interpretations of various psychological and physical mediums of escape. Additional configurative unity is created through the use of formal poetic structures such as the villanelle, sestina, acrostic, and ballad forms. Some of the poems are ekphrastic responses to artists like Frida Kahlo or Alfred Stieglitz. A majority of the poems are lyrically driven, though many poems also rely on narrative elements.

Influenced by Louise Glück and Emily Dickinson, the poems often utilize language compressed to maximize emotional and thematic impact. At other times the poems expand to Barbara Hamby's bountiful proportions and Theodore Roethke's vegetative abundance.

Though by no means a heroic tale, the arrangement of FORMS OF EXODUS is influenced by considerations of the archetypal Hero's Journey. The collection opens with poems in the first section that explore the breakdown of family structures through death, divorce, substance abuse, and geographic distance. The middle section of the book then conveys a middle passage through recurrent pregnancy loss, domestic confusion, and a failed marriage. FORMS OF EXODUS ends with poems that communicate redemption and consolation through travel, the natural world, and new relationships. Each section is interwoven with garden, greenhouse, and nature imagery to emphasize the ongoing search for renewal and regeneration.