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POETRY

Intaglio Daughters

by Laynie Browne

\$18.00 paperback 6 x 9 inches 85 pages

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Author's note: *Intaglio Daughters* is an homage text for the poet Lyn Hejinian. All titles (in italics above each poem) are taken from her book *The Unfollowing*. In the preface to her book she writes "I wanted each line to be as difficult to accept on the basis of the previous and subsequent lines as death is for we who are alive—a comparison that I make intentionally, since my intention in writing the sequence of poems I'm calling 'The Unfollowing' was to compose a set of elegies." In considering a form for *Intaglio Daughters* I wondered—what follows loss and rupture? What follows unfollowing? The mourning process often involves a non-sequential experience of time—and many returns, wavelike, in spirals or contractions. In keeping with this idea of rounds, sinuous or labyrinth-time, reaching backward and forward simultaneously, my book is a series of rondels, with the final line in each poem returning to, and resounding Hejinian's language.

Laynie Browne's recent books include a collection of poems, *Translation of the Lilies Back into Lists* (Wave Books, 2022) and the anthology *A Forest on Many Stems: Essays on The Poet's Novel* (Nightboat Books, 2021). Honors include a Pew Fellowship, the National Poetry Series Award, and the Contemporary Poetry Series Award. She teaches and coordinates the MOOC Modern Poetry at University of Pennsylvania.

Praise for *Intaglio Daughters*

"Laynie Browne's deeply moving *Intaglio Daughters* follows Lyn Hejinian's *The Unfollowing* section by section. Hejinian's book deals with the effect of sudden loss. It might be too simple to say that Browne's is a gesture of reconnection and healing—but it wouldn't be entirely wrong either. Each of these rondel jewel-like poems takes off from a line of Hejinian's and circles back at the end to rewrite/ re-envision it. It is Browne's uncannily good ear that makes it work. In an age of suspicion and careless wreckage, Browne's homage to Hejinian, her affirmation of relation and lineage, is both surprising and necessary."

—Rae Armantrout

More praise for *Intaglio Daughters*

“Brilliant, playful, tender, intimate, and funny, Laynie Browne’s *Intaglio Daughters* is an homage that follows Lyn Hejinian’s *The Unfollowing* through unreason’s door. Each 13-line poem begins with a line from Hejinian’s text and ends with the same line remixed and re-sounded. The effect is dazzling, vibrational—as Browne puts it, “enacting a rhyme.” Following unfollowing does not impose logic onto Hejinian’s non-sequitur sonnet elegies, but instead activates vivid soundscapes of relationality. If intaglio prints a line from etched out absence, maybe intaglio daughters are beings born of loss who take up the elegiac project to wield spells against death. Browne demonstrates how sound itself—like love, and like loss—renders experience luminously charged. In *Intaglio Daughters*, Browne sings the skies and songs that Hejinian’s work opens up in and for contemporary poetry. Celebrating the generative powers of mentorship, friendship, and love, this is an amazing book.”

—Claire Marie Stancek

“Laynie Browne’s *Intaglio Daughters* simmers Fahrenheit, as fecund utterance, always renewing itself via living phonemic activity.”

—Will Alexander

An independent publisher of poetry that runs counter to the mainstream, Ornithopter Press has published individual collections by contemporary authors since 2014. The press puts out two to four books per year and seeks to amplify a broad range of perspectives and experience.

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