



The 2009 Massachusetts Poetry Festival will highlight small press publishing to show its importance to the craft of poetry—without a small press culture, there is no sustainable American Poetic Tradition.

The editors and publishers of 25 different presses and magazines will have their books and journals for sale and be available to “talk shop.” Many of the presses will be offering discounts and deals. This will be a central location for the festival & will also host book signings from featured poets.

Dear Small Press,

Bootstrap Productions is seeking applications for the Second Annual Small Press Fair at the Massachusetts Poetry Festival in Lowell, MA on **Saturday, October 17th** from 10:00a.m. - 5:00p.m.

We are seeking a diverse group of presses and magazines that represent a variety of poetic traditions.

Due to limited space, only 25 presses & / or magazines will be selected. Preference will be given to proposals which highlight organizations that:

- have documented histories of sustained publishing,
- show deference to the art & tradition of publishing,
- reflect the diversity of writing in Massachusetts,
- have the capacity to build audience at the festival.

(Rubric on page 7.)

Please contact us @ bootstrapproductions@gmail.com if you have any questions. If you would like to introduce us to the quality of work you publish, please feel free to send samples of your books to

Bootstrap Productions
82 Wyman. St.
Lowell, MA 01852

The Small Press Fair is
curated by



Small Press Fair

- Presses should submit application by August 1st, 2009.
- Presses will be notified of acceptance no later than August 15th, 2009.
- There will be 25 presses & / or magazines selected for the event.
- There will not be any fees to attend and sell books.
- The fair will be a central location for the Festival.
- 10 of these presses will be selected to be ‘featured presses’ and will receive a 6-8 foot table from which to sell books.
- ‘Featured presses’ will receive a sliding stipend between \$50-\$250 to cover costs of travel & / or help.
- The rest of the 15 presses can expect to share a 6-8 foot table with 1-2 other presses.
- Curatorial decisions will be made by Derek Fenner & Ryan Gallagher.



massachusettspoetryfestival

October 15th - 17th, 2009

Lowell, Massachusetts

Please answer the following questions as specifically and honestly as you can. Feel free to provide supplemental information if you deem it necessary. There are no 'right' answers to these questions, but we will be using the rubric to select a quality group of diverse presses. The criteria in the rubric will help us narrow down 'featured presses' who have demonstrated a sustained and quality existence in the world of small press publishing. But we are also looking to have a range of aesthetics, local magazines and presses represented, as well as presses at different stages of existence.

If you are an author trying to sell your own book, we suggest sending a separate query for a slot in the 'book signing table.' Special preference will be given to authors who are participating in the festival and this list will be put together in October.

Though we would love to accept everyone, there is just not enough space. As one of the few small press fairs that does not charge its participants, and even pays some of them, space is highly sought after.

MASSACHUSETTS POETRY FESTIVAL SMALL PRESS FAIR REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

October 17, 2009 / Lowell, Massachusetts

www.masspoetry.org

Please include as much information as possible for your organization. The deadline for application submission is August 1, 2009.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Name of Press & / or Magazine:

Contact Person:

Mailing address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

website: _____



SECTION 1:

1. Are you: (circle one):

- A small press that publishes (mostly) perfect-bound books.
- Exclusively a journal or magazine.
- A chapbook / ephemera press.
- Other: _____

2. When was your organization established? _____

3. How many of the following has your organization published?

- Perfect-bound books: _____
- Issues of a journal or magazine: _____
- Chapbooks: _____
- Other: _____

4. Please list up to ten titles that you plan to bring to the small press fair:

-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-

(You do not need ten titles and you are also free to bring more, but we can get a better sense of how much space you may need based on your response to this question.)



SECTION 2:

5. Please explain how you see the role of your organization in relation to the history of small press publishing or literary culture. 250 words max.

6. Please explain the aesthetic stance of your organization to publishing (if any). 250 words max.



7. What is the mission of your organization (if any). Manifestos welcome.

SECTION 3:

8. Please explain how your press can help reflect the diversity of writing in Massachusetts. This does not mean that you have to publish people from Massachusetts; it means what is says. 250 words max.



SECTION 4:

9. Please explain how your organization can help generate audience for the festival. 250 words max.

SECTION 5: INTANGIBLES.

10. Please feel free to add anything you would like to express about your press that can not be represented by the above questions. 250 words max.



massachusettspoetryfestival

**October 15th - 17th, 2009
Lowell, Massachusetts**

RUBRIC:

Name of organization: _____

Please do not fill this in. This is for the 'small press fair' committee to complete.

Section 1: Your history of publishing.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Section 2: The craft of publishing.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Section 3: The diversity of writing in MA

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Section 4: Capacity to generate audience.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Section 5: Intangibles.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Please send any necessary supporting materials and return to:

Bootstrap Productions
82 Wyman. St.
Lowell, MA 01852
bootstrapproductions@gmail.com
www.masspoetry.org