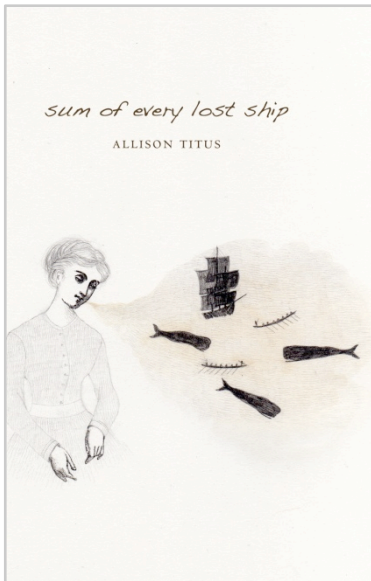


Cleveland State University

Poetry Center / Department of English
2121 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44115-2214
Telephone: 216-687-3968 FAX: 216-687-6943
888-278-6473 (toll-free)

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
November 23, 2009
Contact: Rita Grabowski
poetrycenter@csuohio.edu



Sum of Every Lost Ship poems by Allison Titus

5.5 x 8.5 x .23”
78 pp. \$15.95 paper
ISBN 978-1-880834-88-6, LCCN 2009028523

This debut collection of poems is both fascinated with and distracted by our impending endings and leave-takings, the loneliness of animals, and “how the histories of things eat.” These poems populate empty parking lots and seaside pawnshops and depart from a port at Deadhorse, Alaska. A narwhal gives cryptic advice to those requiring guidance on eulogies, arctic travel, and extracting minerals from ghosts. Allison Titus presents us with quiet meditations on how absence often remains fixed as longing, a red thread knotted at the wrist.

“*Sum of Every Lost Ship* navigates what is haunting, strange, and unknowable—grief and disappearances, fragments and histories. Reading, we are deftly balanced on the shores of mystery, a mystery fathomed by a keen instinct for metaphor. Allison Titus is a writer exquisitely attuned to compassion, isolation, and the sometimes overlooked details of this sturdy and tenuous world—goats’ hearts, schooners, cabinets, arctic realities. This is a startling and moving collection.”

—**Talvikki Ansel**

“The pilgrim heart,” as one of Allison Titus’s exquisite phrasings has it, requires an unmooring, a letting go, into a world marked by passing journeys, passing architectures, almost-lost motels for intimates to get lost in—a hardscrabble world rich with leavings. An internality emerges, sets out, to congress with the obstinate, the creaturely. This poetry’s experiment takes us to the fact that the everyday is also experimental, in that, familiar as it is, it can never, if it is seen intensely enough to be durably writ, be wholly predicted. So fine a lyric sensibility as the reader will find in these poems is all the more compelling for acknowledging the human limits of the lyric, for making hard choices, even refusals, and for never romanticizing omission—i.e., obliteration—but testing it at every step with earthly perceptions. Allison Titus’s *Sum of Every Lost Ship* presents readers with a striking new poetry, and a beautiful and truly original voice.”

—**William Olsen**

Allison Titus holds an M.F.A. in Fiction from Virginia Commonwealth University and an M.F.A. in Poetry from Vermont College. A chapbook, *Instructions from the Narwhal*, is out from Bateau Press. She lives in Richmond, Virginia.

Ordering Information: For a full list of titles, please visit www.csuohio.edu/poetrycenter. Books are available through SPD (Small Press Distribution) at www.spdbooks.org, Amazon.com, and BarnesAndNoble.com as well as many corporate and independent bookstores. For media review copies and printed catalogs, contact Rita Grabowski at 888-278-6473, or 216-687-3986.

###