



# Etruscan Press

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Etruscan Press Author Tim Seibles To Receive The Theodore Roethke Memorial Poetry Prize**

**WILKES-BARRE, Pa. (August 11, 2014)** – Tim Seibles, a Philadelphia native and Norfolk, Va. resident, will receive the Theodore Roethke Memorial Poetry Prize on Tuesday, Nov. 11 at Saginaw Valley State University in Michigan. The award ceremony is part of the six-day Roethke Poetry and Arts Festival sponsored by the SVSU Board of Fellows. Seibles' award recognizes his most recent book of poems, *Fast Animal*, released by Etruscan Press in January of 2012.

*Fast Animal* has won two other awards: The National Book Award for Poetry Finalist in 2012 and the PEN Oakland Josephine Miles Literary Award in 2013. The Roethke Poetry Prize has been awarded since 1968 (generally on a triennial basis) to such Poet Laureates as Robert Penn Warren (1971), and Robert Pinsky (2008). In advance of receiving the Roethke Prize, Seibles is available for interviews and readings in select cities across the country.

*Publisher's Weekly* describes *Fast Animal* as "Crisply comic, disarmingly frank, and aurally bold." Seibles describes *Fast Animal* as a collection of poems that does not necessarily cater to the intellectually elite. Instead, his highly imaginative writing style is what makes his poems available to all types of readers. Regardless of whether the reader is someone who enjoys poetry casually and only on occasion, a fellow poet, or a professor of poetry, Seibles is confident there is something for everyone in *Fast Animal*.

*Undertow Magazine* writes about *Fast Animal*: "Seibles, one of America's foremost African-American poets, has given the world a collection of tight, elegant, and honest poems about growing up: themes of innocence, memory, (un)knowing run throughout." Most notably, one of the poems in the book, *Delores Jepps*, explores one of Seibles' greatest high-school crushes. In it he makes agonizingly relatable, universal observations such as, "I don't know/what we saw when we saw/her face, but at fifteen there's/so much left to believe in..."

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Seibles earned his B.A. at Southern Methodist University and his M.F.A. from Vermont College of Norwich University. He is currently an English and creative writing professor at Old Dominion University, a teaching board member of the Muse Writers Workshop, and part-time faculty at the University of Maine's Stonecoast M.F.A. in Writing Program. He is the author of several other books of poetry: *Body Moves*, Corona Press; *Hurdy-Gurdy*, Cleveland State University; *Kerosene* (Chapbook), Ampersand Press; *Ten Miles An Hour* (Chapbook), Mille Grazie Press; *Hammerlock*, Cleveland State University; and *Buffalo Head Solos*, Cleveland State University.

## About Etruscan Press

Housed at Wilkes University and partnering with Youngstown State University, Etruscan is a non-profit literary press working to produce and promote books that nurture the dialogue among genres, cultures, and voices. Etruscan publishes books of poems, novels, short stories, creative non-fiction, criticism, translation, and anthologies.

Three works from Etruscan's collection of poetry were named finalists for the National Book Award and another was named to the Longlist (the NBA's "Top Ten" in poetry). Other titles are recipients of the Poetry Society of America's "First Book Award," the *ForeWord Review* "Book of the Year Award," and PEN Oakland's "Josephine Miles Award." Three poems published by Etruscan were selected for *Best American Poetry*. Most recently, titles published by Etruscan Press were awarded the Theodore Roethke Memorial Poetry Prize, nominated for the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award in Poetry, and named a finalist for the Housatonic Book Award.

In addition to support from Wilkes University and Youngstown State University, Etruscan is proud to have received grants and awards from the National Endowment for the Arts, The Oristaglio Foundation, the Andrews Foundation, The Wean Foundation, the Rayen Foundation, the Drs. Brothers & Murphy Endowment, and the Ohio Arts Council.

About Roethke: Theodore Roethke was born on May 25, 1908, in Saginaw. He wrote nine books of poetry, one book of prose and two children's books. Among his many prizes were two National Book Awards and the Pulitzer Prize. At the time of his death, Roethke had won more prizes than any other American poet. Roethke's poetry is translated into more than 13 languages.

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About the Prize: The Theodore Roethke Memorial Poetry Prize has been offered since 1968, generally on a triennial basis. The Prize is given for a book published in the previous three years that has made an important contribution to American poetry. Three active poets of high reputation are named as judges, usually chosen by the U.S. Poet Laureate/Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress. The prize is part of The Theodore Roethke Poetry & Arts Festival, a six-day regional event made possible in part by a grant from the Michigan Humanities Council, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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