



milkweed  
editions

40TH ANNIVERSARY

# IMPACT REPORT

THE POWER OF BOOKS



**For the past 40 years, Milkweed Editions has published books that have the power to change the way we live in the world.** In this time of great division, literature connects us to other cultures, illuminates the human experience, and fosters empathy and appreciation for difference. Among the 20 books Milkweed published last year was Aimee Nezhukumatathil's first work of nonfiction, *World of Wonders*, which **shows us that inhabitants of the natural world can teach, support, and inspire us** and instructs that these experiences are for everyone regardless of background or skin color. torrin a. greathouse's debut poetry collection, *Wound from the Mouth of a Wound*, **invites readers into the disabled and trans body-mind experience.** *The Shame*, the first novel by Makenna Goodman **explores capitalism, technology, and feminism** from a young mother's perspective. Poems in Benjamin Garcia's debut, *Thrown in the Throat*, **reveal the perspectives of Latinx, queer, and undocumented peoples.**

[CHECK OUT THE FULL LIST OF 2020 AUTHORS AND BOOKS AT MILKWEED.ORG](http://MILKWEED.ORG) ▶▶

Unlike commercial publishers, we acquire manuscripts based on artistic excellence and the transformative potential these books have for readers. **The support of our community makes this publishing model possible.** Thank you!

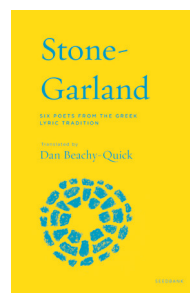
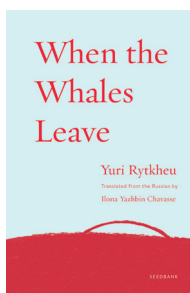
## BRAIDING SWEETGRASS

In 2020, seven years after it was first published, ***Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer appeared on the *New York Times* bestseller list** where it has been now for over a year. It has been published in 11 languages and 14 territories (and counting!) and has moved readers to enact land conservation efforts; develop new curricula; create paintings, sculptures, and music; write wedding vows; and engage in countless conversations.

## SEEDBANK

The latest books in our world literature series include a retelling of the Chukchi creation story, an exploration of the teachings of ancient Greek poetry, and a Tuvan boy's coming-of-age story. **Milkweed launched the Seedbank series to protect cultural diversity** and bring ancient, historical, and contemporary works from cultures around the world to American readers.

LATEST ENTRIES



## MILKWEED BY THE NUMBERS

**20** NEW BOOKS PUBLISHED IN 2020

**2** NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLERS

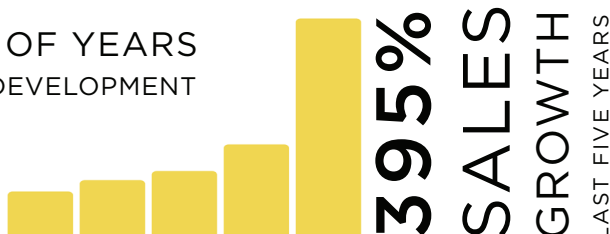
**1.4** MILLION DOLLARS PAID TO WRITERS

**1.7** MILLION READERS REACHED VIA BOOKS, EVENTS & WEB

IN ADVANCES & ROYALTIES

**3** AVERAGE NUMBER OF YEARS A BOOK IS IN EDITORIAL DEVELOPMENT

**68** MANUSCRIPTS IN DEVELOPMENT



**395%** SALES GROWTH LAST FIVE YEARS

**4** MILKWEED FELLOWSHIPS TO PROVIDE EQUITABLE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN PUBLISHING

**40** YEARS OF MILKWEED



MCKNIGHT FOUNDATION

# CELEBRATING 40 YEARS SERVING WRITERS AND READERS

TO ALL OF OUR SUPPORTERS WHO INVEST IN MILKWEED: YOU MAKE GREAT BOOKS HAPPEN

I like to support independent bookstores, and it's even better that you are a publisher who helps promote lesser known authors. A worthy mission. **Good books are essential for a better world.**  
GALE (READER)

What a joy it has been to be a part of Milkweed's long and continuing story. As a writer and as a reader, I'm **grateful for Milkweed's work of radical beauty and ethical care.** Here's to more decades of books, conversation, and community!  
RICK BAROT

**Milkweed gave me my start**—and for that I am forever grateful. And they continue to inspire, for which I am even more grateful.  
LAURA PRITCHETT

**Milkweed books bind us together,** creating ties with one another of shared experiences, of common purposes, across cultures, and across generations.  
ROBIN WALL KIMMERER

I value indie presses for **leading the industry when it comes to inclusion and innovation.** Milkweed is responsible for some of my most fascinating and favorite reads!  
MARCELLA (READER)

I value Milkweed because they care deeply about writers and our craft, because they understand what it takes to create and offer support writers need, and they are committed to the transformative possibilities of literature. **I feel like an artist in their hands.**  
MAKENNA GOODMAN

The publication from Milkweed Editions that **changed my present outlook, my sense of history, and my forward-seeing self** is *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer.  
KAREN (READER)

**Milkweed has changed my life** and helped *Rising* become a far better book than it would have been had I written it alone.  
ELIZABETH RUSH

Growing up I never saw anybody who looked like me represented in books about the outdoors. I'm so proud of the impact my book has already been having on teens and students all over the country. **People are writing to me that they feel seen.**  
AIMEE NEZHUKUMATATHIL

Every book is an act of love made manifest by those who care profoundly about art, craft, and community—not only reflecting what is around us, but **pushing boundaries to challenge and imagine a better, more just and intentional world** so that “all flourishing is mutual.”  
SU HWANG

**Milkweed books are instruction manuals for how to love the world,** in all of its glorious manifestations, but also how to be responsible for it, for the planet and for each other.  
MARGARET RENKIL

**Dear to my heart, and always on my nightstand** are these two books: *Late Migrations* by Margaret Renkil and *World of Wonders* by Aimee Nezhukumatathil.  
CAROL (READER)