



milkweed  
EDITIONS

# Impact Report 2021

THE POWER OF POTENTIAL

## MILKWEED BY THE NUMBERS

26 NEW BOOKS  
PUBLISHED IN 2021

\$2.1 MILLION  
PAID TO WRITERS IN  
ADVANCES, PRIZES & ROYALTIES

2.5 MILLION  
READERS REACHED  
VIA BOOKS, EVENTS & WEB

3 AVERAGE NUMBER OF YEARS  
A BOOK IS IN EDITORIAL DEVELOPMENT

53 MANUSCRIPTS  
IN DEVELOPMENT

1,963 GENEROUS  
SUPPORTERS

4 MILKWEED FELLOWSHIPS  
TO PROVIDE EQUITABLE CAREER  
OPPORTUNITIES IN PUBLISHING

41 YEARS OF  
MILKWEED

At Milkweed Editions, we embrace possibility. We acquire manuscripts based on the transformative potential they have for readers, and we invest in intense, long-term collaborations with writers to develop their work to its fullest potential. Among the 26 powerful books Milkweed published last year was poet Victoria Chang's first nonfiction book, *Dear Memory*, a collection of letters and mementos on trauma, loss, identity, and the art of remembering across generations. Michael Kleber-Diggs' Max Ritvo Poetry Prize-winning debut collection, *Worldly Things*, offers guidance on radical kindness and community. Margaret Renkl's *Graceland, At Last*, winner of the PEN America Literary Award for the Art of the Essay, explores the complexities of the American South. Diane Wilson's debut novel, *The Seed Keeper*, winner of the Minnesota Book Award, gives voice to generations of Dakota women who fight to protect and uplift their culture.



VICTORIA CHANG



MICHAEL KLEBER-DIGGS



ADAM WOLFOND

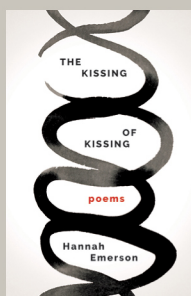


MARGARET RENKL

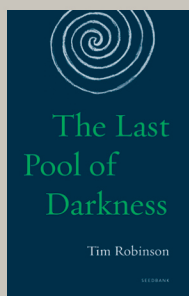
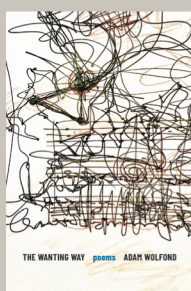


DIANE WILSON

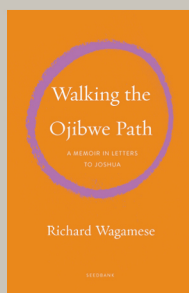
CHECK OUT THE FULL  
LIST OF 2021 AUTHORS  
AND BOOKS AT  
[MILKWEED.ORG](https://www.milkweed.org)



**Multiverse** Earlier this year, we launched **Multiverse**, a new series emerging from the practices and creativity of neurodivergent, autistic, neuroqueer, mad, nonspeaking, and disabled cultures. Hannah Emerson's debut collection of poems, *The Kissing of Kissing*, was the series' inaugural book. This fall, we're thrilled to publish *The Wanting Way* by Adam Wolfond. The books in **Multiverse** gesture toward a correspondence that exceeds what is normal and normative in our society, questioning and augmenting what literary culture is, has been, and can be.



**Seedbank** The **Seedbank** series aims to protect cultural diversity and bring ancient, historical, and contemporary works from cultures around the world to American readers. Look for two new additions later this year—*The Last Pool of Darkness*, the second book in Tim Robinson's Connemara trilogy, and *Walking the Ojibwe Path: A Memoir in Letters to Joshua* by Richard Wagamese.



Milkweed's ability to pursue potential and champion change is made possible by the support of our contributors and readers. Thank you!

# THANK YOU TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED TO MILKWEED IN 2021 YOU MAKE GREAT BOOKS HAPPEN

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



So many Milkweed books are really exceptional. **I continue to come to their books,** because the editorial vision always surprises me.

**ROB,** reader



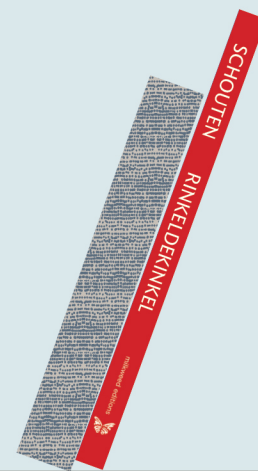
“With Milkweed I thought, **‘this is where my book belongs,’** because of their commitment to taking care of the earth as well as high-quality literature. I wanted to publish with Milkweed, because I knew it would give me a platform for having a conversation on a broader scale about issues that I really care about.”

**DIANE WILSON,** Author of *The Seed Keeper*



Thank you for **discovering authors who can bring us grief, beauty, and joy in equal measure.** Authors who can teach us to open our collective eyes wider to see are the ones who need to be read and to be heard. Milkweed is making that possible.

**KAREN,** reader



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lynn Abrahamsen | Keith Bednarowski | Chris Crosby | Jack Dempsey | Pamela Fletcher Bush | Nima Desai | Jonathan Gaw | Geoff Gothro | Phillip Hampton | Ned Hancock | Bill Hogle | Laura Johnson | Peter Laird | Leah Lamon | Sheila Letscher | Shawn Monaghan | Shelly Gill Murray | Matt Murphy | Emily Nicoll | Jörg Pierach | Mary Reyelts | Daniel Slager | Nell Smith | Stephen Spencer | Molly Sullivan | Deanna Thompson | Amy Vargo | Maryam Marne Zafar

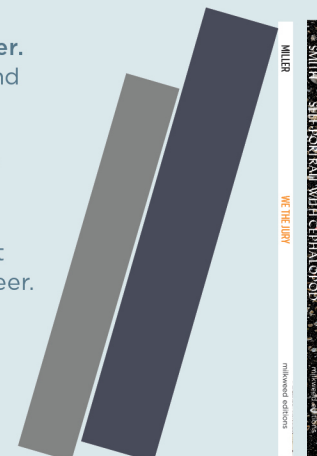
“After reading Milkweed’s description in Robin Wall Kimmerer’s *Braiding Sweetgrass*, I straight away went to your webpage. It felt like home. **I trust that the books you publish nourish my soul and our world,** from authorship to content to physical shape. It brings me joy and hope to know that you all are working away, making it happen.”

**RACHEL,** reader



**I am working with a dream publisher.** The book has a talented team behind it invested in its success. I have a talented team behind me invested in my growth and development. I’m having conversations on big stages with leading writers and thinkers. I thought I was launching a book, but now I feel like I’m launching my career.

**MICHAEL KLEBER-DIGGS,** Author of *Wordly Things*



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 RENKL,** Author of *Late Migrations, Graceland, At Last*



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

