



## Copia (American Poets Continuum Series)

*Erika Meitner*

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# Copia (American Poets Continuum Series)

Erika Meitner

**Copia (American Poets Continuum Series)** Erika Meitner

"The poems in *Copia* are about what is and what is almost-gone, what is in limbo and what won't give way, what is almost at rock bottom but still and always brimming with the possibility of miracle."—Rachel Zucker

Erika Meitner's fourth book takes cues from the Land Artists of the 1960s who created work based on landscapes of urban peripheries and structures in various states of disintegration. The collection also includes a section of documentary poems about Detroit that were commissioned for *Virginia Quarterly Review*.

*Because it is an uninhabited place, because it  
makes me hollow, I pried open the pages of  
Detroit: the houses blanked out, factories  
absorbed back into ghetto palms and scrub-  
oak, piles of tires, heaps of cement block.  
Vines knock and enter through shattered  
drop-ceilings, glassless windows. Ragwort  
cracks the street's asphalt to unsolvable  
puzzles.*

Meitner also probes the hulking ruins of office buildings, tract housing, superstores, construction sites, and freeways, and doesn't shy from the interactions that occur in Walmart and supermarket parking lots.

*It is nearly Halloween, which means  
wrong sizes on Wal-Mart racks, variety bags of  
pumpkins extinguishing themselves on the stoop  
  
children from the trailer park trawling our identical lawns soon  
so we can give away nickels, light, sandpaper, raisins, cement.*

**Erika Meitner** was a 2009 National Poetry Series winner. Her work has appeared in *American Poetry Review*, *Ploughshares*, *Tin House*, *The Best American Poetry 2011*, *Kenyon Review*, and elsewhere. She is associate professor of English at Virginia Tech.

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