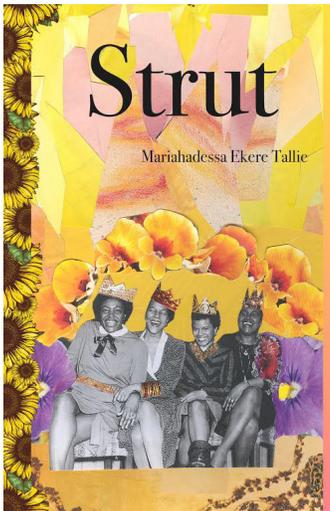


Agape Editions. New Release. Spring 2018.



About the Book:

Strut, Mariahadessa Ekere Tallie's second book of poetry, emerges from an intense engagement with our historical moment. These poems are just as much about injustice, struggle, and survival as they are about transcendence and love. Readers will find themselves immersed in the intersections that connect climate change, capitalism, genocide, racism, misogyny, and mental illness. This work honors the gorgeousness of life, even while bearing witness to the ugliness that accompanies — and often seems to permeate — the human experience. *Strut* is a celebration of self-acceptance, ancestry, love, sensuality, and resilience. It's not a book of answers, but a blessed, influenced weaving together of shadow and light.

About the Author:

Mariahadessa Ekere Tallie is the author of *Dear Continuum: Letters to a Poet Crafting Liberation* and *Karma's Footsteps*. Her work has been published in *North American Review*, *WSQ: Women's Studies Quarterly*, *Black Renaissance Noire*, *VIDA*, *Crab Orchard Review*, *BOMB*, *Paris/Atlantic*, and *Listen Up!*. Ekere has travelled across the United States sharing her poetry and ideas about healing. She has taught in New York, London, Amsterdam and Rundu, Namibia. Ekere earned an MFA from Mills College in 2002. She is a mother of three girls and an enthusiast of plant-based medicine-making.



Praise for the Book:

"Reading Mariahadessa Ekere Tallie's poems is like sitting at the feet of a conjure woman plying the secrets of her craft. This book is a middle passage, a way of saying, *If you wanna know, you gotta go through it*. Through handclap and holler, these are 'omanish' poems, poems that look into the dark, see all the way to the other side. They sport red at funerals, poke fun at the idea that the dead leave us. In the 'by and by' of these poems, we come to memorize the algebraic formula of *Strut*, finally understand why."

—Herman Beavers, author of *Obsidian Blues*

"Mariahadessa Ekere Tallie's *Strut* is a hymn, a praise song, to the ancestors, to those writers and revolutionaries who went before — Amiri Baraka, Lucille Clifton, Gwendolyn Brooks. These are sensual, life-affirming poems that celebrate the body as our connection to all that shapes us. These imagistic, musical poems will force you to sing along."

—Maria Mazziotti Gillan, winner of the American Book Award

"Ekere Tallie's *Strut* is a reclamation project, a blues mission with a clear antecedent. When Tallie's poetry 'struts,' she awakens us to the borders, the pressures of survival, and the use of song to combat what oppressive forces conspire to trip us in mid-step and negate our beauty. This is the voice between the cracks, the urban belly song that makes room for our heartbreak and happiness. Tallie is the queen of the haiku blues. You better put your ear to the street, so you can hear this strut."

—Willie Perdomo, *The Essential Hits of Shorty Bon Bon*



Agape Editions is a literary micropress located in southern California. We publish literary work that enacts or engages with various aspects of the mystical or the Numinous. We are interested in ecstatic experience, moments of vision, and the potential of spirituality & religion to serve as conduit for cultural identity. Our purpose is interfaith and intercultural as well as literary.