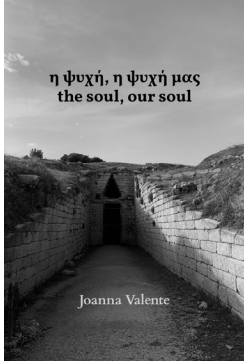


AGAPE EDITIONS. WINTER 2023.



ABOUT THE BOOK

Penned during a season in Greece, this collection of poetry, photographs, and visual art is a study in different notions of tenderness & connection. How do humans love one another? The Numinous? Flora and fauna? The world at large? What can love heal?

And—perhaps more difficult to ask—how does it fail us? The artistry & originality of this book are focused on embracing & exploring the earnestness & sentimentality that many students of poetry have been taught to reflexively dismiss.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Joanna C. Valente is a human who lives in Brooklyn, New York. Joanna is the author of several collections including *A Love Story* and *η ψυχή, η ψυχή μας | the soul, our soul*. They are the illustrator of *Dead Tongue* by Bunkong Tuon and *Raven King* by Fox Henry Frazier. Joanna is also the founder of Yes Poetry. One day, Joanna dreams of having a flower and vegetable garden.



PRAISE FOR THE BOOK

η ψυχή, η ψυχή μας | the soul, our soul is pathos in prayer, sung about and for ancient gods and goddesses, landscapes and lives—as ghosts and ever-changing presences. Valente's eighth collection evokes histories of hauntings, new worlds within old, all while bridging language with love and the human heart. Valente's imagery is an oracle for the surreal which questions and longs for an answer. Their artwork is a stunning partnership with language that hits like lightning and asks the reader: where does your soul call home?

—Hillary Leftwich, author of *Ghosts Are Just Strangers*
Who Know How To Knock and *Aura, A Memoir*

In *η ψυχή, η ψυχή μας | the soul, our soul*—a hybrid collection of intimate poetic vignettes, vivid illustrated portraits and sketches, and stunning photographs rooted in the timeless landscapes of Greece—Joanna C. Valente reveals the enduring interconnectedness of myth, religion, story, person, and place, inviting us “to know and to see / ourselves // as a certain kind of light.” So enter the soul, our soul and revel in Valente's tremendous celebration of that light, which is to say you, which is to say love, which is to say life.

—Raegen Pietrucha, author of *Head of a Gorgon and An Animal I Can't Name*, winner of the 2015 Two of Cups Press Prize

What one finds in Joanna Valente's collection, *η ψυχή, η ψυχή μας | the soul, our soul*, is a whole creation of beauty in both words and images. As if, in reading the collection, “one waves / a stick like a magic / wand with whole pearlesque / words being born” Valente expertly curates her own artwork and photography with sharp, engaging, and laser-focused poems that create a lucid-dream-travel speeding toward transformation. Indeed, each poem, and each artwork is “a weird country of islands, [...] a weird / set of bodies to cherish.” I promise this: Valente's readers will walk away from this experience trans-fixed, alchemized.

—Shannon Hardwick, author of *Before Isadore*



AGAPE EDITIONS is a literary micropress that was originally created in southern California, now ensconced in a haunted town amidst the bright hills of upstate New York. We publish 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 conduits for cultural identity & survival. Our purpose is interfaith and intercultural as well as literary.