

# THE NATIONAL POETRY FOUNDATION

University of Maine, 5752 Neville Hall, Room 400, Orono, ME 04469-5752

announces the publication of

## A HELEN ADAM READER

*Edited and with an introduction by* Kristin Prevallet



W. H. Auden awarded Helen Adam the *New York Quarterly's* Madeline Sadin Award for “excellence in craft”; Richard Howard described her ballads as “glittering sorceries”; and Robert Duncan referred to her as “the grain of living poetry that saves me at times.” Collected for the first time from books long out of print and archival material gathered and presented by Kristin Prevallet, *A Helen Adam Reader* includes a substantial selection of ballads, as well as lyric scripts, a short story, interviews, and correspondence. It also includes a DVD which features excerpts from her opera, a recording of her singing ballads, and a slideshow of her collages.

### *Advance praise for A Helen Adam Reader*

Kristen Prevallet has provided an inestimable service by bringing Helen Adam’s work into print. Adam was a central figure in the San Francisco Renaissance and New York poetry scenes where her inspired readings achieved legendary status. Her merging of the bardic tradition and pop culture, mythopoeic lore and urban uncanny represents the most anomalous features of cold war poetics yet exemplifies many of its most characteristic traits. . . . Prevallet’s superb introduction and editorial apparatus provide a historical and critical context for reading this remarkable poet. — Michael Davidson

Adam is the most exuberantly anachronistic of second wave modernist poets. Her magical, macabre, magnificently chilling ballads open a secret door into the Dark with rimes both gruesome and sublime. — Charles Bernstein

This magnanimous scholarly compendium of the work and life of Helen Adam is a recovery and reclamation project of major importance. . . . *A Helen Adam Reader* is an annotated and elucidating tome of the “real work” and magnifies a rare poetic history. — Anne Waldman

Helen Adam . . . was the indispensable link between the most ancient traditions of poetry in our language and the development of current American poetry. . . . Now in this book her life and work are brilliantly introduced, selected and annotated by a contemporary poet and scholar who is, as few are, equipped to study all the domains—poetic, sexual, magical, political—of Adam’s haunting work. — Robert Kelly

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Includes accompanying DVD

For further information, contact: Gail Sapiel, Business Manager  
Phone: (207) 581-3813    Fax: (207) 581-3886    E-mail: [Sapiel@maine.edu](mailto:Sapiel@maine.edu)  
[www.nationalpoetryfoundation.org](http://www.nationalpoetryfoundation.org)