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BOOK NEWS

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***Put Your Hands In*, Winner of the Walt Whitman Award of the Academy of American Poets, to be Published March 2014**

Chris Hosea's Debut Poetry Collection Chosen by John Ashbery

"Exactly a century ago, the Armory Show brought European avant-garde art to New York. We are still experiencing its consequences. Among the works on view was Marcel Duchamp's notorious Nude Descending a Staircase, which a derisive critic wanted to rename 'Explosion in a Shingle Factory.' Both titles come to mind as one reads Chris Hosea's Put Your Hands In, which somehow subsumes derision and erotic energy and comes out on top. Maybe that's because 'poetry is the cruelest month,' as he says, correcting T. S. Eliot. Transfixed in midparoxysm, the poems also remind us of Samuel Beckett's line (in Watt): 'The pain not yet pleasure, the pleasure not yet pain.' One feels plunged in a wave of happening that is about to crest."—John Ashbery, in his judge's citation

Baton Rouge— Making new music from embarrassment, love, sex, and confusion, *Put Your Hands In* is a lyrical atlas of contemporary heartbreak and ecstasy. As comic as they are discordant, these poems discover unforeseen harmonies everywhere, from Brooklyn dive bars, drone warfare, and love-at-first-sight to the utopias of the ninety-nine percent. *Put Your Hands In* is a paper machine with unlimited battery life—a compact jukebox, kaleidoscope, and mirror in which you will recognize heretofore unknown aspects of yourself.

Born in Princeton, New Jersey, **Chris Hosea** earned an AB cum laude in English and American literature from Harvard College and an MFA in poetry from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. His poetry and other writings have appeared in publications such as *BOMB*, *Conjunctions*, *Iowa Review*, *Harvard Review*, and *Denver Quarterly*. He lives in Brooklyn, New York.

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Poetry

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