
MEDIA KIT



Julie Swarstad Johnson

Julie Swarstad Johnson is the author of *Pennsylvania Furnace* (2019), editor's choice selection for the Unicorn Press first book series, and co-editor of *Beyond Earth's Edge: The Poetry of Spaceflight* (2020). She has served as Artist in Residence at Gettysburg National Military Park, which led to the chapbook *Orchard Light* (2020), published by Seven Kitchens Press. She lives in Tucson and works at the University of Arizona Poetry Center.

IN PRINT

- *Beyond Earth's Edge: The Poetry of Spaceflight* (co-edited anthology), University of Arizona Press, 2020
- *Orchard Light* (poetry chapbook), Seven Kitchens Press, 2020
- *Pennsylvania Furnace* (poetry), Unicorn Press, 2019
- *Jumping the Pit* (poetry chapbook), Finishing Line Press, 2015

CONTACT

jswarstad@gmail.com
www.julieswarstadjohnson.com

Pennsylvania Furnace

Pennsylvania Furnace, Julie Swarstad Johnson's debut book of poems, inhabits layers of landscape, history, and belief—the contours of home. In these poems, voices from nineteenth-century iron making communities appear alongside a present-day speaker's investigations of urban sprawl and industry in Arizona, revealing the ways our environments shape our collective, familial, and individual selves. "Tell me about your thirst," one speaker asks; the poems in *Pennsylvania Furnace* trace the lines of longing that root us, in place and in memory.

PENNSYLVANIA FURNACE



poems

Julie Swarstad Johnson

ADVANCE PRAISE

"In poems quietly fierce, meticulously observed, faithfully rendered, musically tempered; in the uncanny ability to evoke both the presence of the past, its once molten iron, and its abandonment by time, Julie Swarstad Johnson raises a 'host of silent voices praising every shadow.' In these graceful poems, Claudia Emerson has found an heir. *Pennsylvania Furnace* is fired by the haunting beauty and revelation of its resonant images, 'finding use / not in the thing itself, but in what / it opened...'" —ELEANOR WILNER

"As Julie Swarstad Johnson journeys east from present-day Arizona, her poems travel both geography and time, arriving in a pre-Civil War Pennsylvania crowded with steel mills and ironworks. There, other voices rise up to join hers, allowing the poet to plumb experiences beyond those of her singular self—a woodcutter struggling to support her family cord by cord, an ironmaster's daughter trading the fetters of her father for those of a husband. Built on careful research and evocative place-based observations, *Pennsylvania Furnace* is a book of incandescent intelligence that searches and burns bright as the sunshot furnace of the desert, as the smelter's molten ore." —JESSICA JACOBS

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HARDCOVER: 978-0-87775-059-8 | \$25

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More Info

EDUCATION

The University of Arizona | Tucson, AZ
MA - Library & Information Science

The Pennsylvania State University | University Park, PA
MFA - English (Creative Writing)

The University of Arizona | Tucson, AZ
BA - Anthropology & Creative Writing

SELECTED READINGS

- 2021 Copper Queen Library, Bisbee, AZ
- 2020 Bexley Public Library, Bexley, OH
- 2020 Mennonite Arts Weekend, Cincinnati, OH
- 2019 Rensing Center, Pickens, SC
- 2019 Brevard College, Brevard, NC
- 2018 Gettysburg National Military Park, Gettysburg, PA
- 2017 Good Oak Bar Reading Series, Tucson, AZ
- 2015 Red Weather Reading Series, University Park, PA
- 2015 Out Loud Reading Series, Bellefonte, PA

AWARDS & GRANTS

- 2018 Artist in Residence, Gettysburg National Military Park, supported by National Parks Arts Foundation
- 2018 Professional Development Grant, Arizona Commission on the Arts

INTERVIEWS

- 2019 [Under a Warm Green Linden](#)
 - 2018 [The Gettysburg Foundation](#)
 - 2018 [The Seminary Explores](#)
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