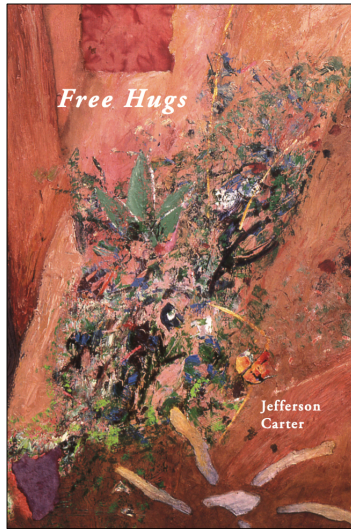


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The thirteenth book by Jefferson Carter, *Free Hugs* collects poems from his four most recent books, *Get Serious*, *Diphtheria Festival*, *Birkenstock Blues*, and *Yesternow*, and adds to this selection over twenty new poems. Carter's poetry is direct, clear, accessible, often wise, and always funny.

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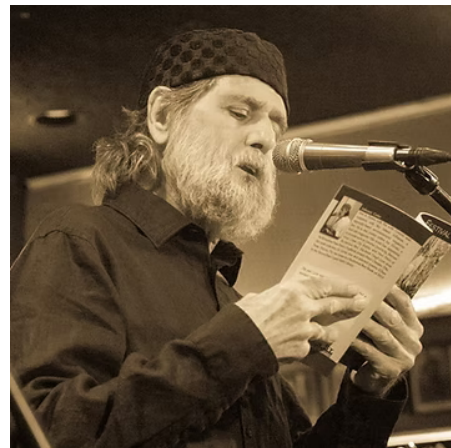
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Arizona's First Poet Laureate

Carter's humor shields "the heart of a romantic, replete with a compassionate response to, and acknowledgement of *dukkha*. At times, the poet he most reminds me of is Billy Collins, but a more mordant, twisted, even punk Collins."

— Frank Jude Boccio
author of *Mindfulness Yoga*

Viejo

She
dressed me
with her eyes



Jefferson Carter has work in such journals as *Carolina Quarterly*, *Barrow Street*, and *Rattle*. Chax Press published his ninth collection, *Get Serious: New and Selected Poems*, a Southwest Best Book of 2013. *Yesternow*, his eleventh book, is available through his website: jeffersoncarterverse.com.

Carter lives in Tucson with his wife Connie. He taught composition and poetry for 30 years at Pima Community College.



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