

A remarkable collection of poetry and paintings by acclaimed Wellington poet Gregory O'Brien.

Our mother's clouds and insects  
    fly to embrace your clouds  
and insects. Her architecture, roads,  
bridges and infrastructure  
    rush to greet yours.  
Her molecules on their upward trajectory  
entwine with yours, the colour of her eyes,  
hair and skin. Her language,

with its past  
participles, figures of speech,  
    the sounds and tremors  
which are its flesh and bones  
these words go out  
to greet your words and  
    to greet you –  
these words  
which will never leave her.

*House & Contents* is a moving meditation on earthquakes and uncertainties, parents and hats, through Gregory O'Brien's remarkable poetry and paintings.

**Gregory O'Brien** is an independent writer, painter and art curator. He has written many books of poetry, fiction, essays and commentary. His books include *A Micronaut in the Wide World: The Imaginative Life and Times of Graham Percy* (Auckland University Press, 2011) and the multi-award-winning introductions to art for the young and curious: *Welcome to the South Seas* (Auckland University Press, 2004) and *Back and Beyond* (Auckland University Press, 2008), which both won the Non-Fiction Prize at the New Zealand Post Book Awards for Children and Young Adults. His book *Always Song in the Water: An Oceanic Sketchbook* was published in 2019, and a major work on the artist Don Binney will appear in 2023. Gregory O'Brien became an Arts Foundation Laureate and won the Prime Minister's Award for Literary Achievement in 2012, and in 2017 became a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit and received an honorary doctorate from Victoria University of Wellington.



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