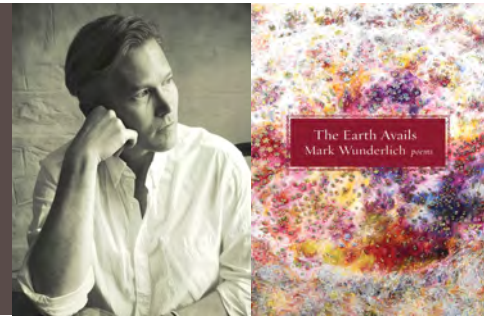


2015 UNT Rilke Prize Mark Wunderlich *The Earth Avails*



Mark Wunderlich's *The Earth Avails*, published by Graywolf Press, has won the 2015 UNT Rilke Prize. The \$10,000 prize recognizes a book written by a mid-career poet and published in the preceding year that demonstrates exceptional artistry and vision. A reception and Q&A session for Wunderlich will be held at UNT on the Square on Wednesday, April 15 and a campus reading will take place on Thursday, April 16, 2015.

In his powerful book, *The Earth Avails*, Mark Wunderlich explores the plentitudes and threats of the natural order in language that both appropriates and resists the consolations of prayer and spiritual meditation. Here the agrarian world, eroded, assailed, embedded in myth, impoverished as a source of mythic communion, reasserts its primary terror and significance, its god-like proportions, storm-like indifference, its small farms and families repossessed by earth. The earth survives, avails against our language, our memorials, our amnesia even, our world exalted and mourned in human terms. "I have loved myself and the world more than I have loved you," he prays. "I stand at the estuary," he says, and the confluence implied by speech remains haunted with humility and contraction, a sensation of wind tightening its reins, of language, mercifully, breaking down. "And you," he continues, "push the snaffle past my teeth."

Mark Wunderlich is the author of two previous collections of poetry: *Voluntary Servitude* (Graywolf 2004), and *The Anchorage* (University of Massachusetts Press 1999)

Schedule of Events

- Wednesday, April 15, 2015:** 6:30 p.m.
Q&A and Reception
UNT on the Square
- Thursday, April 16, 2015:** 8:00 p.m.
Reading & Book Signing
UNT Business Leadership Building, Room 180

Wunderlich's other recognitions include a Wallace Stegner Fellowship from Stanford University where he also served as a Jones Lecturer. He received two fellowships from the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, as well as fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Massachusetts Cultural Council and the Amy Lowell Trust. He is also the recipient of Writers at Work Award, the Jack Kerouac Prize, and fellowships from the Bread Loaf Writers Conference, the MacDowell Colony, and the Civitella Ranieri Foundation in Umbertide, Italy. In 2012 he received an Editor's Prize from the *The Missouri Review*. Since 2003 he has been a member of the Literature Faculty at Bennington College in Vermont. Wunderlich lives in New York's Hudson Valley near the village of Catskill.

The judges also selected three finalists for this year's Rilke Prize: Rebecca Dunham's *Glass Armonica* (Milkweed Editions), Katie Ford's *Blood Lyrics* (Graywolf), and Michael White's *Vermeer in Hell* (Persea).

For more information about the UNT Rilke Prize and our previous winners, please visit: <http://english.unt.edu/creative-writing/poetryprize>

Links

Mark Wunderlich
KERA Art & Seek
Slate

UNT Department of English
Academy of American Poets
Boston Review

Graywolf Press
Poetry Foundation