

FOR WANT AND SOUND

Melissa Buzzeo

Melissa Buzzeo's *For Want and Sound* is a philosophical lyric in two parts. Part I, *Book*, is fashioned from a series of testimonial statements investigating boundarylessness—in language, in body, in different states of being, in sites of memory and geography—in water. Part II, *Breach, Recoil*, acts as a kind of embankment to the uncontained, and possibly contaminated, space and water in Part I, creating the possibility for commentary. Juliana Spahr has described Buzzeo's work as "shimmering and fully complicated."

For Want and Sound is published as part of the TrenchArt: Surplus Series, with an introduction by Rob Halpern and visual art by Klaus Killisch. TrenchArt is an annual series of new literature, selected and edited to create a textual conversation between some of the most dynamic and exciting writing of today—and tomorrow.

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Melissa Buzzeo
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ABOUT MELISSA BUZZEO

MELISSA BUZZEO is the author of *For Want and Sound* (Les Figures, 2012), *Face*, BookThug, 2009) and *What Began Us* (Leon Works, 2007). She has taught at the University of Iowa, Brown University and in the Naropa University summer writing program. Currently, she teaches both Creative Writing and Architecture at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn and serves as the 2013 Poet in Residence at Opus Projects Gallery in Chelsea, NY.

PRAISE FOR *FOR WANT AND SOUND*

“Melissa Buzzeo embodies contemporary thought as it circulated around the body, when the house, when the given structure: fails. A writer with incredible lyric gifts, Buzzeo has written through trauma, architecture and place to create a work that is completely original and vibrant. *For Want and Sound* is not simply a test of form; instead, it displays this writer's willingness to let what is written have its own body, its own intensity, and to track that to the place where materials, cells and communities: explode.”

—Bhanu Kapil

“*For Want and Sound* is a book about the body and the sentence, at once grammatical and juridical. It concerns language and law, force and longing, and the fate of love that can't be contained by our sentences, there being no socially sanctioned form for that excess. How is one to communicate a sentence whose subject wants more than grammar allows? And what might this want sound like?”

—Rob Halpern

PRAISE FOR BUZZEO'S PAST WORK

"Melissa Buzzeo crafts her sentence as a minimalist unit of perception. It can move with a prepositional sinuousness, or in concise frames, as in a film. It lends itself to what she compellingly calls 'the pleasure of cataloguing confusion.' It recurs also, to suggest the wave structure of sleep, thinking, love. And in each sentence she shows how the senses crystalize to form concepts or time. This is a precociously patient book: it waits for its reader. This can feel wise, or erotic, as if it were we who she ably pronounces."

— Lisa Robertson, on *What Began Us* (2007)

"A book of short, brilliant sentences opening on an architecture of meaning as a thrilling speculative environment. A book to be near."

— Nicole Brossard, on *Face* (2009)