

GOWANUS ATROPOLIS

JULIAN T. BROLASKI

Poetry | \$15 (\$13 direct from UDP)

Perfect-bound

ISBN 978-1-933254-81-4

Distribution: SPD

Release Date: February 2011

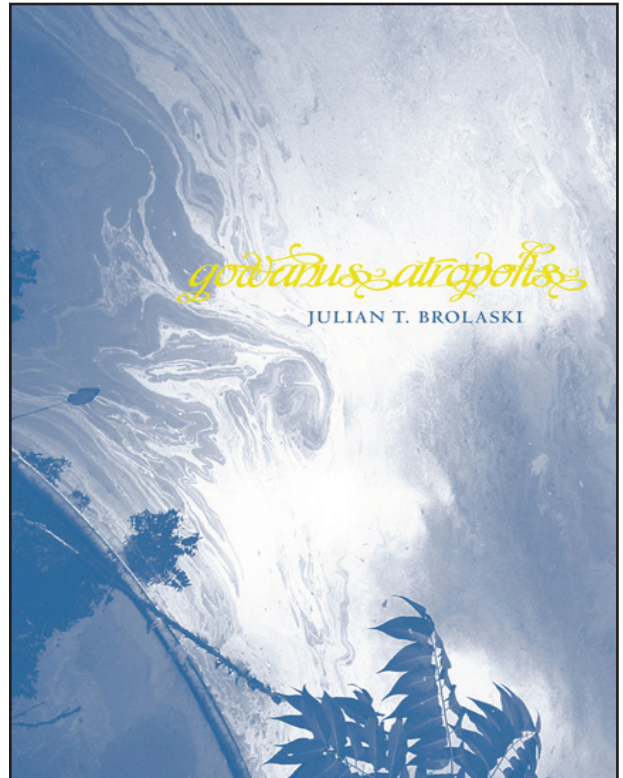
gowanus atropolis attempts to reconcile the toxicity of the titular Gowanus Canal in Brooklyn and the east river in 'Manahatta' with the poet's search for the pastoral in New York City. A queer elegy for when language might have been prior to thought, where the phrase becomes the thought, rather than the other way around—so that the dystopic might become, if not utopic, at least measurable / pleasurable, "melodious offal."

Brolaski finds the 'herm' in 'hermunculae' and puts the 'gee' back in 'ambigenuity.' The tongue hasn't sounded this flexed and full since Chaucer lapped up Romance, but these damesirs sing instruction with their fishairs: one 'ynvents a grammatical order' so to 'speke englysshe/polymorphously.'"—**RODNEY KOENEKE**

"Once in a while there are poems which create entire fresh terrain. And I'm saying too that it's hard to come home from it, locator dials set anew ... Julian's deviance is a hazard of poems which bend the muscle of light. I can hardly wait to share our extra strength when we've all read them!"—**CA CONRAD**

EXCERPT FROM GOWANUS ATROPOLIS:

the fish begin to speak queerly
something that never will happen before
alexander the great
my contemporary
girding the neck
au quelque crossroads
wot disgorges
the libertine's lap
n the ganymede's hole



Julian T. Brolaski is the author of the chapbooks *Hellish Death Monsters* (Spooky Press 2001), *Letters to Hank Williams* (True West Press 2003), *The Daily Usonian* (Atticus/Finch 2004), *Madame Bovary's Diary* (Cy Press 2005) and *A Buck in a Corridor* (flynpyntar 2008). Brolaski's second full length book, *Advice for Lovers*, is forthcoming from City Lights in Spring 2012. Brolaski lives in Brooklyn where he is an editor at Litmus Press, curates vaudeville shows and plays country music with The Invert Family Singers.

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