Simone White
Dear Angel of Death

Half poems, half prose, Dear Angel of Death braids intimate and public thinking about forms of togetherness. Is one woman a mother, a person in an artworld, a “black”? What imaginary and real spirits are her guides? The title essay proposes disinvestment in the idea of the Music as the highest form of what blackness “is” and includes many forms: philosophical divergence on the problem of folds for black life, a close reading of Nathaniel Mackey’s neverending novel From a Broken Bottle Traces of Perfume Still Emanate, and an impassioned defense-cum-dismissal of contemporary hip hop’s convergence with capitalism.

“[White] brings to her writing a range of legal, political, literary, lyrical, and lived knowledge, along with an incisiveness marked by candor and care.

— Maggie Nelson

“I get this pinwheel relationship to wisdom & history when I read Simone White... Like Dana Ward’s, her work sends me searching...”

— Eileen Myles

Simone White is the author of House of Entry of All the World (Factory School), Of Being Dispersed (Futurepoem), and the chapbook Unrest (UDP). Her poetry and prose have been featured in NYTimes Book Review, Harper’s Magazine, BOMB Magazine, Chicago Review, and Harriet. In 2017, she received the Whiting Award for poetry. She works as Program Director at The Poetry Project and, in spring 2018, is Visiting Associate Professor of Creative Writing at The University of Iowa Writers’ Workshop.