

Iris Cushing

The First Books of David Henderson and Mary Korte: A Research

In 1967, the first books of two poets were published by small presses on opposite coasts of the USA: David Henderson's *Felix of the Silent Forest* and Mary Norbert Korte's *Hymn to the Gentle Sun*. This essay looks at the context of these supposedly "minor" poets, and through research and conversation with Korte, Henderson, and Diane di Prima, reconstructs the role of small presses in the countercultural resistance of the late 1960s.

// Bringing together archival scholarship, interviews with key figures, and reflections on her own small-press publishing activities, Cushing models a powerful mode of embedded historical scholarship.

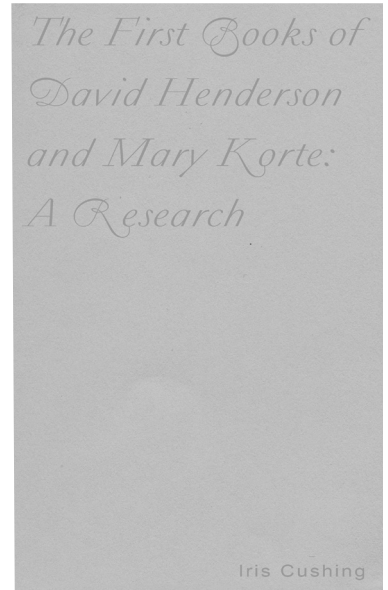
— MC HYLAND

// Iris Cushing... transmits her intimate portraits of... Mary Norbert Korte, David Henderson, and Diane di Prima—at moments of great historical import in the creation of our enduring poetic life.

— AMMIEL ALCALAY



Iris Cushing is a poet, scholar, educator and founding editor for Argos Books. Her poems and critical writings have appeared in numerous publications, including the *Boston Review*, *Fence*, and the Academy of American Poets Poem-A-Day series. Her poetry collection *Wyoming* won the 2013 Furniture Press Poetry Prize. A doctoral candidate in English at the CUNY Graduate Center, Iris is currently at work on a biographical dissertation titled *Pierce and Pine: Diane di Prima, Mary Norbert Korte and the Question of Matter and Spirit*.



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Media contact: Daniel Owen • publicity@uglyducklingpresse.org

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