Jennifer Nelson

Harm Eden

Harm Eden is about how our fucked-up present-day civilization is built on originary and timeless systemic damage. The fantasy of nature and/or art as echoes of a purer creation reinforces this foundation all the more. This book attempts to think through and simultaneously away from this evil fantasy and the civilization it upholds by exploiting the tension between history and poetry.

“ I love this book: intertextual, entwined, weaving edges with language and events both current and bedrock
— Hoa Nguyen

“ In Nelson’s poems art collapses time, but time is unruly; it invariably reconstitutes, resists human interventions, upturns the illusion of linearity and progress.
— Genya Turovskaya

“ Resonant and subversive, Harm Eden is an invaluable companion during “this place and time and pose // of which // some are more the fulcrum / of the hourglass than others.”
— Jacqueline Waters

Jennifer Nelson is the author of Aim at the Centaur Stealing Your Wife (UDP) and Civilization Makes Me Lonely, winner of the Sawtooth Prize (Ahsahta). Her work has appeared in Panda’s Friend, A Perfect Vacuum, Social Text, The Baffler, The Brooklyn Rail, and elsewhere. She is assistant professor in the Department of Art History at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.