

Basie Allen

Palm-Lined with Potience

Palm-Lined with Potience is New York City poet and visual artist Basie Allen's debut collection of poems. Basie's work is by turns political and lyrical, charting both physical and emotional landscapes, making maps of paintings and paintings of maps. While rooted in Pro-Black theory, art, and precise description, Basie makes space in the ekphrastic for the eerie and abstract. The poems in this collection search for nodes of truth in a tumultuous sea of fractured facts.

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I truly have rarely encountered such a singular debut.

— TERRANCE HAYES

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The power of Allen's descriptive phrases is in their precision, a sense of commitment to contour, internal curvature. Worshipful and winking devotion to the work of carving and refining, shaving away at the thing until it reveals the form it wants to, needs to, take.

— ALEX TATARSKY



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Basie Allen is a poet and visual artist from New York City's Lower East Side. His work carves parentheses in-between dirt and feeling. In 2020 he was nominated for a Pushcart Prize. His poem "Psychic Cartography" is included in MoMA/P.S.1's Homeroom series of online publications.

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