

# Kendra Sullivan

## *Reps*

In her first full-length poetry collection, *Reps*, Kendra Sullivan cycles through a series of operational exercises that gradually enable her to narrate an attempted escape from the trappings of narrativity—plot, character, chronology, and the promise of a probable future issuing forth from a stable past. From deep within a narrowly constrained relational data set sometimes defined as memory, sometimes identity, and sometimes collectivity, Sullivan explores, by turns, the open sea as a mode of knowing and means of conveying knowledge; the fluidity of beings, nonbeings, and the forces animating both; maps, countermaps, and the restructuring of shared worlds through the un/disciplined integration of discrete epistemes; and the cultivation of a few anti-catastrophic [writing] strategies to locate and live by the compass in compassion in an age of climate chaos.

// *Reps* is a bracing and riveting examination of our ecological crisis and each of our attempts to tread the treacherous waters of racial capitalism. Every word in the book is prismatic, distilling and casting an entire spectrum of repetitions and representations, and then questioning the literal and figurative technologies and logics necessary to reproduce each utterance.

—CELINA SU

// Concentrated yet flowing, Kendra Sullivan's scrupulously honed language turns storytelling into a redemptive exercise of clairvoyance. Her book, a remarkable cascade of dares, hypotheses, cubist statements, and lyric exclamations, has the pith of epitaph, the liveliness of cinéma-vérité, and the onrushing abundance of the roman-fleuve, a streaming prosody that begins again and again its push into a future made possible, made tangible, by testimony's tender attentiveness to the weight of syllables. In Sullivan's *Reps*, every sentence (whether matter-of-fact or dream-like) stages a love affair with a labyrinth it simultaneously escapes.

—WAYNE KOESTENBAUM



Kendra Sullivan *Reps*

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**Kendra Sullivan** is a poet, public artist, and activist scholar. She is the Director of the Center for the Humanities at the CUNY Graduate Center. She is the publisher of *Lost & Found: The CUNY Poetics Document Initiative* and the co-editorial director of *Women's Studies Quarterly*. She is the co-founder of the Sunview Luncheonette, a cooperative arts venue in Greenpoint, Brooklyn. Her books include *Zero Point Dream Poems* (Doublecross Press) and *Reps* (Ugly Duckling Presse).

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