

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE — Nov 2018

POETRY AS PROTEST AND EXPRESSION OF PRIDE

EXAM(I)NATION INTERWEAVES THE POLITICAL AND THE PERSONAL

bd-studios.com is excited to announce a new poetry collection from luke kurtis. *exam(i)nation* brings together 40 poems, most of them written specifically for this book. It is [available for purchase now](#).

Interweaving the political and the personal, *exam(i)nation* is kurtis's poetic manifesto on important issues facing the United States today, from gay rights, gun violence, and black lives to technology, the environment, fundamentalist religion, and beyond.

"During the 2016 US Presidential Elections, I began to write more and more poems in reaction to current events," explains the poet. "Before long I realized I had enough poems to make up a chapbook-length collection, and that's what I thought it would be. But as time went on, I continued to write."

As political as much of the work in *exam(i)nation* is, the poems are also extremely personal. "People often say politics aren't personal. But that's actually not true," explains the poet. "What goes on in the political sphere affects me very directly as a queer person, just as it does for women, people of color, immigrants, and all the other groups of people under attack by conservative politics. It can't be anything *but* personal when our lives are at stake."

The poet opens the collection with a short poem titled "privilege" in which he recognizes that, as a white, cisgender male, he has it a lot easier than many of his brothers and sisters. He feels acknowledging that privilege is the first step towards working against it and making the world a better place for all people.

Other poems in *exam(i)nation* are less political. Pop culture references such as Beyoncé, SZA, iPhones, and Siri pepper the collection, firmly situating the poems—in case there was



any question—in our times. In spite of this “nowness,” kurtis also pulls in references to the past, from the ancient world to the 19th century. It serves as a reminder that our own culture will one day be part of history, too. That is, as the poet is quick to remind us, if humanity is around long enough for that to happen. He seems unsure, but hopeful. And with the state of things today, where we can't open our news feeds without reading about mass shootings and bigoted attacks, that's about all we can hope for.

Ultimately, *exam(i)nation* explores all of these themes and more. But throughout it all, everything is rooted in personal experience. “These poems are part of my story,” kurtis reminds us. “You might not agree with me about a lot of things. But you can't deny my experience, what it's like for me in America in 2018. Will you listen to what I have to say?”

And, even more importantly, what will you do in response?

exam(i)nation is available to order in paperback from all major book retailers. An eBook version is available on Amazon Kindle, Apple iBooks, and Google Play.

luke kurtis is a Georgia-born interdisciplinary artist. His other books include *INTERSECTION*, *The Language of History*, *Angkor Wat*, and *the immeasurable fold*, all part of an ongoing series that combines photography, writing, and design. He lives and works in New York City's Greenwich Village.

bd-studios.com is the art and publishing studio by luke kurtis. *exam(i)nation* is the newest poetry publication, following *Route 4, Box 358* by Dudgrick Bevins. Other releases from bd include an ongoing line of artists' books such as the recently published *Here Nor There* by Sam Rosenthal, as well as *Tentative Armor* by Michael Harren and *Just One More* by Jonathan David Smyth. A new book from Michael Tice is forthcoming.

[*exam\(i\)nation* by luke kurtis](#)

ISBN 978-0-9992078-7-1

Paperback, 186 pages, 8.5 x 5.5 inches (eBook also available)

###