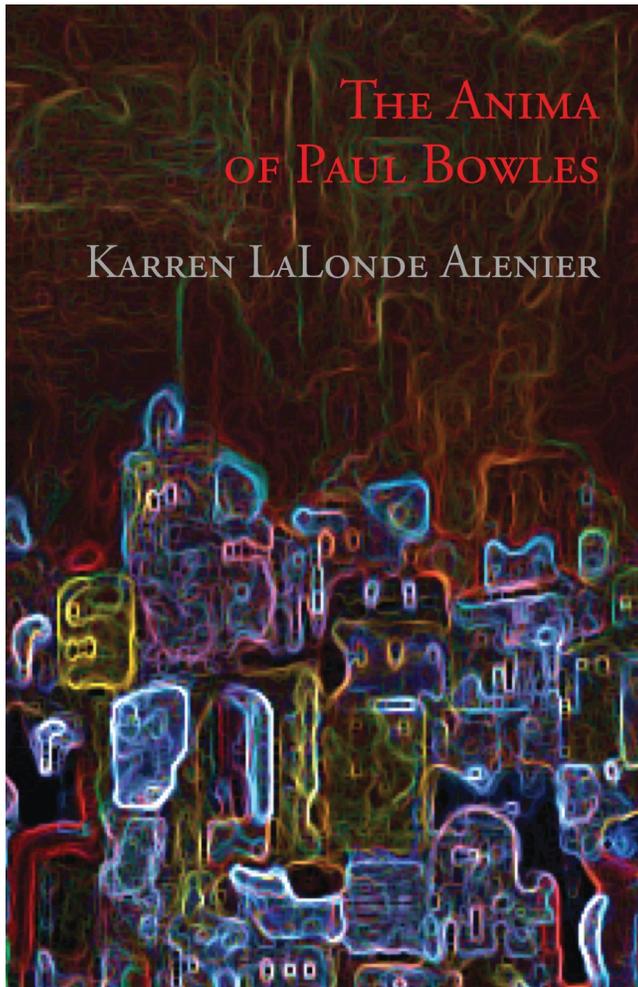


The Anima of Paul Bowles



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by Karren LaLonde Alenier

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The Anima of Paul Bowles, Karren Alenier's seventh collection of poetry, paints a comprehensive portrait of poet, writer, composer Paul Bowles from boyhood to seniority. Considered a precursor of the American Beats, Bowles was protégée both to Gertrude Stein and to Aaron Copland. The collection explores the women who influenced a man once described by a teenaged friend as anti-sexual. The ardent love story of Jane and Paul Bowles, an odd marriage between a lesbian writer and, at times, a gay man, figures prominently.

Richard Peabody, editor of *Gargoyle Magazine*, commented: "Many have tried to explain the gravitational pull that kept Paul Bowles and his wife Jane Auer in their peculiar orbit. How did that work? Karren Alenier reminds us that all love is as truly incomprehensible as it is powerful. She inhabits these astonishing talents, and makes of their lives a sparkling abstract galaxy of words."

Alenier spent three weeks in 1982 in Tangier, Morocco, working on her poems about Gertrude Stein with Paul Bowles. In 2005, some of those poems about Stein made a New York City premiere

in *Gertrude Stein Invents a Jump Early On*, her jazz opera with composer William Banfield. Her second libretto "Majoun," detailing the love story of Jane and Paul Bowles, awaits a musical setting.

For further information, visit the MadHat website at <http://madhat-press.com> or e-mail madhatarts@gmail.com

Karren LaLonde Alenier is the author of six previous collections of poetry, including *Looking for Divine Transportation* (The Bunny and the Crocodile Press), winner of the 2002 Towson University Prize for Literature. Her poetry and fiction have been published in such magazines as the *Mississippi Review*, *Jewish Currents*, and *Poet Lore*. She writes feature articles and interviews, an arts blog called The Dressing, and a monthly column on Gertrude Stein for *Scene4 Magazine* at scene4.com. She is author of *The Steiny Road To Operadom: The Making Of American Operas*, a book about contemporary opera.

Since 2013, she has been leading an international online study group on Gertrude Stein's long poem *Tender Buttons*. The results of those in-depth studies can be seen on her publishing blog at <http://alenier.blogspot.com>

She is a graduate of the University of Maryland College Park in French language and literature and a fellow of the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts. Since 1986, she has worked in a leadership role with the literary nonprofit The Word Works, promoting contemporary American poetry. She lives in Chevy Chase, Maryland, with her husband Jim Rich. She enjoys spending time with her son Ivan and his family in Middletown, New Jersey.

