SANDRA YANNONE

encouraging the poet in every one of us

Sandra (Sandy) Yannone grew up near the edge of the Atlantic Ocean off Long Island Sound in Old Saybrook, Connecticut. She has published two collections with Salmon Poetry: her debut collection *Boats for Women* (2019), and *The Glass Studio* (2024), both of which examine core fascinations and histories for Sandy, spanning the public and the personal: in *Boats for Women*, we see her interest in the *Titanic* disaster of 1912, which in turn sparked a dialogue with Ireland — the country where *Titanic* was built, and where the great vessel made her last port of call — as well as with other international sites connected with the ship, her creators, and her crew; and in *The Glass Studio*, Sandy solders family history, sociocultural figures and events, and her own queer experience in homage to her father's stained glass art studio and supply center, where she worked throughout her adolescence and college years.

Sandy's poems, book reviews, and articles have appeared in numerous print and online journals, including *Ploughshares, Poetry Ireland Review, Prairie Schooner, Sweet, SWWIM Every Day, Naugatuck River Review, The Blue Nib, Live Encounters, Impossible Archetype, Women's Review of Books, Lambda Literary Review* and *Seattle Review*. Her poem "Requiem for Orlando" appeared in Pulsamos: LGBTQ Poets Respond to the Pulse Nightclub Shooting, a special online edition of *Glass: A Journal of Poetry*, and she has written numerous articles about the intersections of poetry and social justice for the monthly newspaper *Works in Progress*. Her work has received the Academy of American Poets Prize and an Associated Writing Programs (AWP) Intro Award. Her poetry has also been nominated for the Pushcart Prize and Best of the Net.

She is the co-founder and host of **Cultivating Voices LIVE Poetry**, an online international, intersectional, intergenerational poetry group and reading series. In addition, Sandy hosts **Last Tuesdays with Sandy**, a special monthly online reading event for Olympia Poetry

For inquiries about readings, interviews, hosting and teaching opportunities, and more, contact Sandy at slyoly@gmail.com.

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Network subscribers, and co-hosts the **West-East Bicoastal Poets of the Pandemic & Beyond** online reading series. Other collaborations include **The Collectibles Lesbian Trading Card Reading Series** with Headmistress Press, and the **Little Oracles: Divinations podcast** miniseries.

After living in the Pacific Northwest for over two decades directing a college writing center, she now enjoys cultivating her love of poetry and all things vintage and nautical from the comfort of her New England hometown.

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In *The Glass Studio* (Salmon Poetry, 2024), Sandra Yannone returns to the memory and reality of her father's iconic stained glass art studio to turn her artistic attention toward a deep meditation on glass, its properties and materiality. Glass objects inhabit every poem including reproductions of Tiffany stained glass lamps, eyeglasses from an early 20th-century crime scene, and drinking glasses from Orlando's Pulse nightclub, and every poem illuminates a core truth: that in its fragility, its ever-present danger of breakage, glass casts an irrefutable strength of spirit and light that endures even after death and the closure of the beloved glass studio.

Praise for *The Glass Studio*

"In her second collection, Sandra Yannone has crafted a new poetics of glass and flameworking. To take in the book's widely-varying formal choices — from prose blocks to fissured columns to dispersed fragments and shards — is to gaze into a jar of sea glass and understand both the shapes and their silences, their narratives without neat resolutions. What does it mean to return home? And how can radical tenderness and belonging hold love's fragility and resilience? Like light prisming through a lamp, the poems flicker, refract, ebb, and flow from sorrow's shadows to desire's flames. ***The Glass Studio* reminds us that grief, erotic longing, loneliness, intimacy, and memory are all expressions of the same shifting luminosity.**"
~ Ansley Clark, author of *Bloodline*

"With crystalline imagery and sensitivity, ***The Glass Studio* both marvels at and mourns the fragility and beauty of human resilience,** with a sense of loss and longing braided into these textured and musical poems. Yannone compiles a glossary of objects, encoding and building the collection's arc, as personal, historical, and cultural reference points form sympathetic resonances, fusing together to purposefully illuminate the sum of the parts. This is a beautifully formed and radiant collection." **~ D'or Seifer, co-host of Lime Square Poets & co-editor of *Skylight 47***

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"Sandra Yannone's *The Glass Studio* conjures both an external place and a vast interior landscape. 'We were/ double-paned,' she writes, invoking the inner and outer worlds at once. Across these pages, emotions crystallize, no longer abstract: 'Love has a tinny taste/ of crinkled foil' and 'despair is just/ one bus stop/ on this long ride home.' Family history appears, paratactic with public history (9/11, the 2016 presidential election, the massacre at Pulse, the long pandemic), while historic figures make intimate cameos (Lizzie Borden, Leopold and Loeb, David Cassidy). In these probing poems, Yannone writes with humility, authenticity, and grace: 'what you don't/ know is like/ the future/ remembered, a shirt/ worn/ inside out.' **When she tells us 'I won't stay/ shattered here/ for long,' we believe her with our whole hearts."**

~ Julie Marie Wade, author of *Skirted* and *When I Was Straight*

"In Sandra Yannone's *The Glass Studio*, the poet's sensibilities are kaleidoscopic – here we have reflection, relation, transition; a tumble of shards and fragments; a language in turns molten and brittle. In these poems, brokenness and beauty are inevitably, sometimes painfully soldered by a skillful hand and eye. From the "single glass bulb" of the lone forest ranger's watch tower to the "slimy, perspiring tanks" of New England lobster shacks; from the rages fueled by a grandfather's endless glasses of bourbon to a father's squares of expertly hand-crafted glass assembled into works of art; from a hurled bottle to a glass kiss — **lyrics and narratives of shatter and repair, disruption and restoration, of cut and mend, suffuse this book with compassionate urgency.** These poems feel miraculous to me in the way that the processes and forms and possibilities of glass feel miraculous to me."

~ Liz Ahl, author of A Case for Solace

"The shards of past, present, and future — both personal and public — are re-set and resoldered in **this heartbreaking and hope-filled meditation on fragility and resilience.**"

~ Allison Arth, host of the Little Oracles podcast

"**The moving poems in Sandra Yannone's *The Glass Studio* are prismatic with past, with longing, with empathy, and, most importantly, with love.** There is a deep respect for work and craft in this collection. For the beautiful structures — both physical and emotional — humanity creates in the name of tenderness, community, and kin."

~ Gustavo Hernandez, author of *Flower Grand First*

"'There is so much more/ than what we perceive… rising all around us/ like immaculate glass/ cities,' assures Sandra Yannone in *The Glass Studio*. **With lyric intensity and syntactic virtuosity, this poet writes deftly of grief, tragedy, heartbreak, and struggle.** Whether elegizing the victims of the Pulse nightclub shooting, reliving a fraught apprenticeship in her beloved late father's glass studio, or envisioning the shattered mind of Lizzie Borden, these poems illuminate, reveal, cut, and last. This collection is delicate as the fine lamps of her father's creation, 'miraculously whole,' shining with 'glass-infused light.'

~ Kim Ports Parsons, author of *The Mayapple Forest*

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Silence. Disaster. Desire. Hope. These are the cardinal directions Sandra Yannone navigates in *Boats for Women*, plotting intersections and transgressions of the personal and historical like a cartographer drafting a nautical chart. Yannone's poems transmit distress calls from the decks of RMS Titanic and other maritime disasters; channel Bess Houdini's crossover into the modern world; and document how women discover and recover from the intimacies of loving each other through time. *Boats for Women* amplifies and survives the split-second when the everyday turns into catastrophe; the fusion of before and after — and after that. All constellate here in Yannone's debut full-length collection, orienting us toward that "choice/ to turn toward a sacred face, a turn// toward your own longing to live."

Praise for *Boats for Women*

"Sandra Yannone's brave poems contribute to popular history of the time, flooding us with the arc, the ache, of family and lesbian relationships in her first full-length collection. **Some poems live in heartbreak, some, in ecstatic joy. They are worthy of many rereads.**" **~ Mary Ellen Talley, CompulsiveReader.com**

"With boat as vehicle, Sandra Yannone's *Boats for Women* takes us on a water journey across the core themes of a life, tackling loss — from historical shipwrecks (the *Titanic* and others), to relationships docked for a bit and then untethered. Using her poetic attention to periscope in on images and singing with and against poetic forms as netting, **we journey with Yannone over centuries conjured and get to swirl in the sensuality of her language. Through it, we watch the light play on the water, are repeatedly cast under with her, and come out again,** surfacing as she tells her stories — those of a transatlantic-living, academic, queer, butch, woman-identified poet and a fierce guardian over the gentleness of the shared waterway. " **~ Gale Hemmann, *Calyx*, Vol. 32:2**

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