



# Erratic Boundaries

Sigrid Miller Pollin  
Jane D'Arista

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- An engaging collaboration between a poet and a visual artist
- Beautifully crafted book with contemporary examples of ekphrastic poems

## Erratic Boundaries

is a collection of ten pen and ink drawings by architect and artist Sigrid Miller Pollin, coupled with ten ekphrastic poems by poet and economist Jane D'Arista. The drawings pull the viewer into fanciful natural and constructed visual moments, and invites the reader into an osmotic ricochet from poem to drawing. The book title is embedded in Poem IV.

*Here, sky rises like a canopy  
above erratic boundaries where land and water meet-  
boundaries so elemental  
we borrow their irregular connections  
to name the ragged edges of human life:  
birth, death, youth, age  
and what we call love and loss.*

**Sigrid Miller Pollin**, currently a resident of Amherst, Massachusetts, was born in Trenton, New Jersey and spent most of her youth in Rhode Island. Sigrid is the principal of Miller Pollin Architecture and Professor Emerita in the Department of Architecture at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Her recent architectural work includes Crotty Hall, a net-zero energy building on the campus of UMass Amherst. As a fine artist, Sigrid's pen and ink drawings of fantasy landscapes have been featured in numerous collaborative exhibits alongside other artists in Massachusetts. A forthcoming book with ORO Editions entitled *Translations: Works of Sigrid Miller Pollin* is a compilation of her architecture and art projects completed over the last three decades.

**Jane D'Arista**, a resident of Old Lyme, Connecticut, is a member of the Connecticut River Poets and is active in other poetry writing and reading groups. In 2014 she published *The Overgrown Copse*, a collection of poems she had written during a long career as a staff economist for various committees of the U.S. Congress. She has authored numerous articles and books on money and finance and has been a lecturer in graduate programs at Boston University School of Law, the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, the New School for Social Research, and the University of Utah. In the wake of the financial crisis in 2008, she was drawn back to work in economics as a research associate at the Political Economy Research Institute at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and, in 2018, published *All Fall Down: Debt, Deregulation and Financial Crises*. While she continues to follow economic and financial developments, she has composed this collection of ten ekphrastic poems based on Miller Pollin's drawings.



Architect returns to the inside of sight,  
a dome she begins the work required  
Here, a dome rises and breathes  
around human's intricate patterns  
in a world of porous forms  
built by human hands. And then,  
the temporal shape reveals  
the greater power of the dome,  
carving what has been made  
over the shadows and of history.



A journey begins as an inscription,  
above and below that same  
in a winding curve to measure its length.  
Here, a dome rises and breathes  
that serves as a shelter of human hands  
between two hills.  
Like all paths leading to history,  
like all lines to reveal its meaning,  
lead us to places not of sight,  
The world cannot be seen but felt,  
as the dome reveals a truth  
will be a final destination.  
The map indicates the line that flows  
give structure to our lives  
how that are the measure of  
the greater journey we make.