



FLOOD DESERTS BY DEREK PIOTR

This beautiful book is coming out this June 12th. So very soon, just right around the corner. I knew Derek first as a musician, before his poetry shattered me with the rawness and bruising of its fruits. His poetry, like his sound work (in his own words), “covers genres as diverse as glitch, leftfield pop, chamber chance, and drone; and is primarily concerned with tenderness, fragility, beauty, and brutality.” To mix things up and you give you a more personalized sense of his work, I asked him a few questions about his book over a game of online scrabble. Here he writes,

“flood deserts. the title is both a command, (a request), and a compound contrastual noun. this collection is an archive that has been dusted severely, altering its surface. it feels entirely new. the collection spans ten years of writing 2010-2020. i feel that in editing these poems i have reincarnated them.

i hope that readers experience a heightened sense of beauty and comfort and truth when reading this collection.

many of the works involve root, sand, rain, sunlight, and birds. i boil their alchemical natures into signposts of feeling.

my hope is to reach as many readers as possible with this collection, submitting it wherever i can for review, award, or excerpts published. i feel that these written works are of a different avenue than my music; both involve intense mediation on beauty, i am excited to see where the book finds a further root.”

I have always felt very close to Derek’s work. His aesthetics are filled with prehistoric ache and a deep sadness that is impossible to explain. In this collection, he writes, “I am a river of gratitude./ Before this, I was a fish –/ or nearly, eyeless and primordial.” Don’t you want to be grateful or a fish with Derek by picking up his debut poetry book?