About the work

*In the Meat Shed** is a series of original interrelated poems I conceived and initially composed while participating in the day-to-day routines of provision of sanctuary for rescued wolves and wolfdogs.

These poems are offered in hopes of bringing readers into the sensory wash of emotions and thoughts that often occupied me as I labored as a volunteer in a site within the sanctuary known as the "Meat Shed." As part of an autoethnographic and personal commitment to being fully present while there, I found myself conducting my research not just *among* but also *with* the physical bodies of three sets of animals: the bodies of the discarded and donated (the "meat"), the bodies of the wolves and wolfdogs (the "rescued"), and with my own embodied organismic assemblage (the "me").

Working intensively with death, even in the service of sustaining life, can be especially hard work for the uninitiated. In such a space sorrow, grief, guilt, and fatigue mix readily with more rejuvenating affective states such as empathy, care, compassion, sense of community, and renewed sense of purpose. But so too does one leave it with an uneasy weight of grievance, especially in reflecting on the seemingly endless cycles of desire and demand that determine the fates of the nonhuman animals that my poems are fundamentally about.

Thank you for taking time to enter the Meat Shed with me.

** Note: **(Sur)render**, a mixed media companion project, is also currently underway.*

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