

CASA Southern California Small Press Collection

This collection is on the top shelf of our community library and features books, chapbooks, and pamphlets published by small presses based in Southern California. The small presses represented here celebrate writing and art that flies under the radar of the large publishing houses, challenges mainstream literary conventions, and/or highlights the voices of marginalized communities. Many of these presses exist with little to no external funding, persisting as labors of love and community. These small presses offer us a wider, kaleidoscopic view of our neighboring communities (and beyond) as well as the infinite possibilities for language to express human experience.

1913 Press (San Diego)

Founded in 2003 by Sandra Doller, **1913 Press** is committed to publishing “the baddest in poetry, poetics, prose, and their intersections with the arts of all forms, in handsome book-as-art-object fashion.”

Alternative Field Notes / Accoutrements / Avenue 50 (Los Angeles)

Alternative Field utilizes poetry [in opposition to violent systems of erasure] as a means to bring people across communities together for a common cause of re-associating our environments to those which are culturally familiar and relevant, in order to resist erasure, and to emerge from this era moving forward toward a more just future, guided by worldviews that foster collaboration and mutuality. Founded by Jessica Ceballos y Campbell in 2016 in collaboration with Avenue 50 Studio in Highland Park.

Cartonera Santanera (Santa Ana)

Cartonera Santanera was founded in December 2012 in Santa Ana, California, by Isidro Perez Garcia and Adriana Lilus. Cartonera Santanera have long worked in Santa Ana and Los Angeles with a particular textual focus on indigenous languages and an artistic focus on artisanal cochineal dyes. Cartonera publishing is a social, political, and artistic movement which began with the founding of Eloisa Cartonera in Buenos Aires, Argentina in 2003. Cartonera books are made from cardboard with handpainted covers and often sold in the street (cheaply) to increase public access to literature.

Econo-Textual Objects (Los Angeles and Tucson)

Handmade chapbook publisher founded in 2014 by poet, essayist, and art writer Raquel Gutiérrez. **Econo-Textual Objects** has published first and second edition runs (100 to 200 copies) of poetry and prose works by queer and trans writers of color.

eohippus labs (Los Angeles)

Co-edited and co-published by Amanda Ackerman and Harold Abramowitz: “I like **eohippus labs** because it is an adventure in circumstance. It does not want to add unnecessary heaviness to the world. It is not afraid to be rational or intuitive, or to know the contents of _____. It understands human scale and impact. It fights against the idea that the world will end but is not controlled by it. It attempts to write an alternative universe that doesn’t acknowledge the laws of _____. But I wonder, is this a good thing?”

Gold Line / Ricochet (Los Angeles)

Created by a group of graduate students at the University of Southern California in 2010, **Gold Line Press** aims to promote the work of emerging poets and fiction writers, as well as to promote / elevate the chapbook form. **Ricochet Editions** is a sibling press of Gold Line and was founded in 2012. Ricochet’s mission is to publish innovative, non-traditional, trans-genre, and/or genre-less works that have a hard time finding homes in journals, competitions, and with other publishers. They have published manuscripts ranging from small chapbooks to full-length books.

Inlandia Institute (Riverside)

The Inlandia Institute is a lively center of literary activity serving the 29,000 sq. mile inland Southern California Region. It grew out of the highly acclaimed anthology *Inlandia: A Literary Journey through California’s Inland Empire*, published by Heyday Books in 2006 with the active participation of the Riverside Public Library. Their mission is to recognize, support, and expand literary activity in all of its forms in the Inland Empire by publishing books and sponsoring programs that deepen people’s awareness, understanding, and appreciation of this unique, complex and creatively vibrant region.

Kaya Press (Los Angeles)

Founded in 1994, **Kaya Press** has established itself as the premier publisher of cutting-edge Asian and Pacific Islander diasporic writers in the United States. Their diverse list of titles includes experimental poetry, noir fiction, film memoir, avant-garde art, performance pieces, “lost” novels, and everything in between. Originally based in New York, Kaya Press is currently housed in the Department of American Studies and Ethnicity at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles.

Les Figs Press (Los Angeles)

Founded in Los Angeles in 2005 by Teresa Carmody, Vanessa Place, Pam Ore, and Sarah LaBorde, **Les Figs Press** has published poetry, prose, visual art, conceptual writing, and translation with a focus on feminist and queer authors. Les Figs has cultivated emerging and established writers as well as interdisciplinary artists who take the book as an object of study, with a mission to create aesthetic conversations between readers, writers, and artists in Los Angeles and around the globe.

Libros Antena Books (Los Angeles and Houston)

Libros Antena Books was an imprint for small-scale bilingual DIY books and pamphlets that published 10 chapbooks. Founded by Jen Hofer and JD Pluecker, the books were home-made, often hand-bound, accessibly priced, and intended for live human touch. They were committed to enthusiastically celebrating the work of other small and tiny presses, and to supporting others in making their own publications by sharing our bookmaking skills through workshops, web-based tutorials, and how-to pamphlets.

The Otherside (Claremont)

The Other Side was first published in 1979 as a Pitzer College student newspaper and over the years has evolved into a student-run literary and arts journal and is published sporadically.

Phoneme Media (Los Angeles)

Phoneme Media is a Los Angeles-based nonprofit publishing house sponsored by PEN Center USA. Phoneme was founded in 2013 by translators Brian Hewes and David Shook. The aim of the press was to increase the availability of books and videos from countries and languages underrepresented in English translation. In 2019, Phoneme was acquired by Deep Vellum Publishing in Dallas, TX.

Third Press (Los Angeles)

Third Press is a Los Angeles based independent publishing project focusing on hystories, struggles, and ideas, founded and directed by Jessy V. Castillo. Castillo is an accomplished producer and creative director catalyzing the cultural landscape through partnerships, presentations, and arts engagements.

Tia Chucha Press (Sylmar)

Tia Chucha Press is one of the country's leading small cross-cultural presses, focused on socially engaged poetry and literature that matters. The press began in 1989 with the publication of Luis J. Rodriguez's first book, *Poems Across the Pavement*. In 1991, TCP became the publishing wing of the nonprofit Guild Complex Literary Arts Center in Chicago, run by Michael Warr and co-founded in 1989 by a collective of artists, writers and activists, including Luis J. Rodriguez. By 2005, TCP was transferred to Tia Chucha's Centro Cultural, becoming its publishing wing. The mission of Tia Chucha's Centro Cultural is to transform community in the Northeast San Fernando Valley and beyond through ancestral knowledge, the arts, literacy and creative engagement.

Tiny Splendor (Los Angeles)

Tiny Splendor started in 2012 as a tiny collective, traveling around sharing artwork out of a small wooden fold-up gallery. They've since grown into two separate studios, one in Berkeley and one in Los Angeles, providing print and publishing services to artists locally and from around the world. They continue to pursue self-publishing and a love of ink on paper, producing print editions, zines, books, apparel and more. The Los Angeles studio is run by Cynthia T Navarro.

Toad Press (Claremont)

The Toad Press International Chapbook Series publishes contemporary, exciting, beautiful, odd, and avant-garde chapbook-length translations of poetry and prose. Toad Press is an imprint of Veliz Books. Toad Press chapbooks are edited and published by Genevieve Kaplan & Sean Bernard

Writ Large Press / Civil Coping Mechanisms (Los Angeles and Pittsburgh)

Writ Large Projects started 15 years ago in Los Angeles as a micro-publisher called **Writ Large Press**, established in 2007 to publish emerging Los Angeles authors. In the years since, working with zero to minimal funds, Writ Large Press was able to produce groundbreaking work that has been covered by newspapers, magazines and, most importantly, transmitted through word-of-mouth far and wide within and across communities, beyond books, and beyond Los Angeles's city boundaries. Writ Large Projects rethinks the publishing industry by centering community. WLP builds networks of support to develop authors—especially those from historically marginalized communities, discover audiences, strengthen neighborhoods, and innovate new storytelling and publishing technologies. WLP is currently run by Chiwan Choi, Peter Woods, and Judeth Oden Choi.