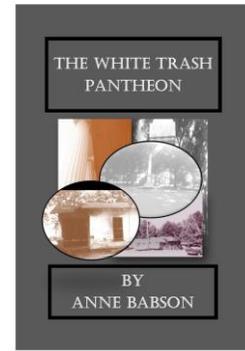


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YANKEE POET WINS SOUTHERN WRITERS' PRIZE, INVADES CONFEDERACY TO APPLAUSE

OXFORD, MISSISSIPPI, JUNE 8, 2015: Last year, literary history was made when The Southern Writers' Southern Writing Conference awarded its prize for the writing they deemed most excellent and most Southern for the first time ever to a Yankee—Brooklyn native Anne Babson. Her collection of poetry *The White Trash Pantheon* was published this year by Vox Press, a forum for remarkable Southern avant garde literature. Babson is a New Yorker who, despite only moving South several years ago, has managed to write an authentic work of Southern literature, authenticated by both a conference and a press that examine the character of life in the South.

The White Trash Pantheon not only marries its Northern poet with a Southern premise; it also weds classical literature to vernacular contemporary Southern voices. With titles such as “Artemis Shows Off Her Gun Collection,” and “Oedipus Shows Up In Family Court,” Babson weaves tales exposing warped stigmas of the South, while also displaying the beauty of Southern culture and language. Utilizing irony and belly-laugh humor, Babson paints a portrait of the South that allows Southerners to approach their own cultural taboos with a certain comfort.

Vox Press publisher Louis Bourgeois explains the appeal of *The White Trash Pantheon* to the press: “Surely no one in the South is more generally despised than a carpetbagger... She isn't a Southern person, but her writing is in fact Southern. *The White Trash Pantheon* doesn't mock the South, but it examines the South with the clear vision an outsider's eyes bring, and it does it with wit.” Babson's blog, *The Carpetbagger's Journal*, has received over 36,000 hits, has been noted by radio in Vicksburg, Mississippi; quoted by the punditry site *Y'all Politics*; and the movie production site for the documentary *Southern Belle*.

One of the poems from the book was nominated for a Pushcart Prize and published in a high school literature textbook. Babson has been nominated for the Pushcart three other times. She has received residency grants from Yaddo and Vermont Studio Center. Her work has been anthologized both in England and the United States, and she has been published in over one hundred journals on five continents. She also wrote the words to an opera composed by Su Lian Tan called *Lotus Lives*, produced in New York and Vermont.

Babson and Vox Press are taking *The White Trash Pantheon* on what they are calling a “Thelma and Louise” homespun tour, visiting independent bookstores all over the South. Look for a date in your hometown soon.