

Joyce Brown



“Fair warning for those who come to poetry seeking instant comfort and easy nostalgia: you will not find either here. Instead, *Call and Answer* rewards the reader with shapely, well-crafted poetry that surprises, that sometimes startles, and that frequently embarks on a journey from the concrete and precise to the impressionistic and metaphorical—often within the confines of a single poem. Every page of this slender volume is exquisitely illustrated by the gifted artist Mary Swann, who insightfully captures the mood and colorations of each poem.”

– Marilyn L. Taylor, Poet Laureate, City of Milwaukee

“*Call and Answer* is a vivacious and quirky back road through the heart. Mary Swann’s masterful illustrations harmonize playfully and poignantly with Joyce Brown’s delightful verse. This is an illuminated text that celebrates the miracles as well as the shadows of the everyday.”

– Hoag Holmgren, Poetry Editor, *divide*

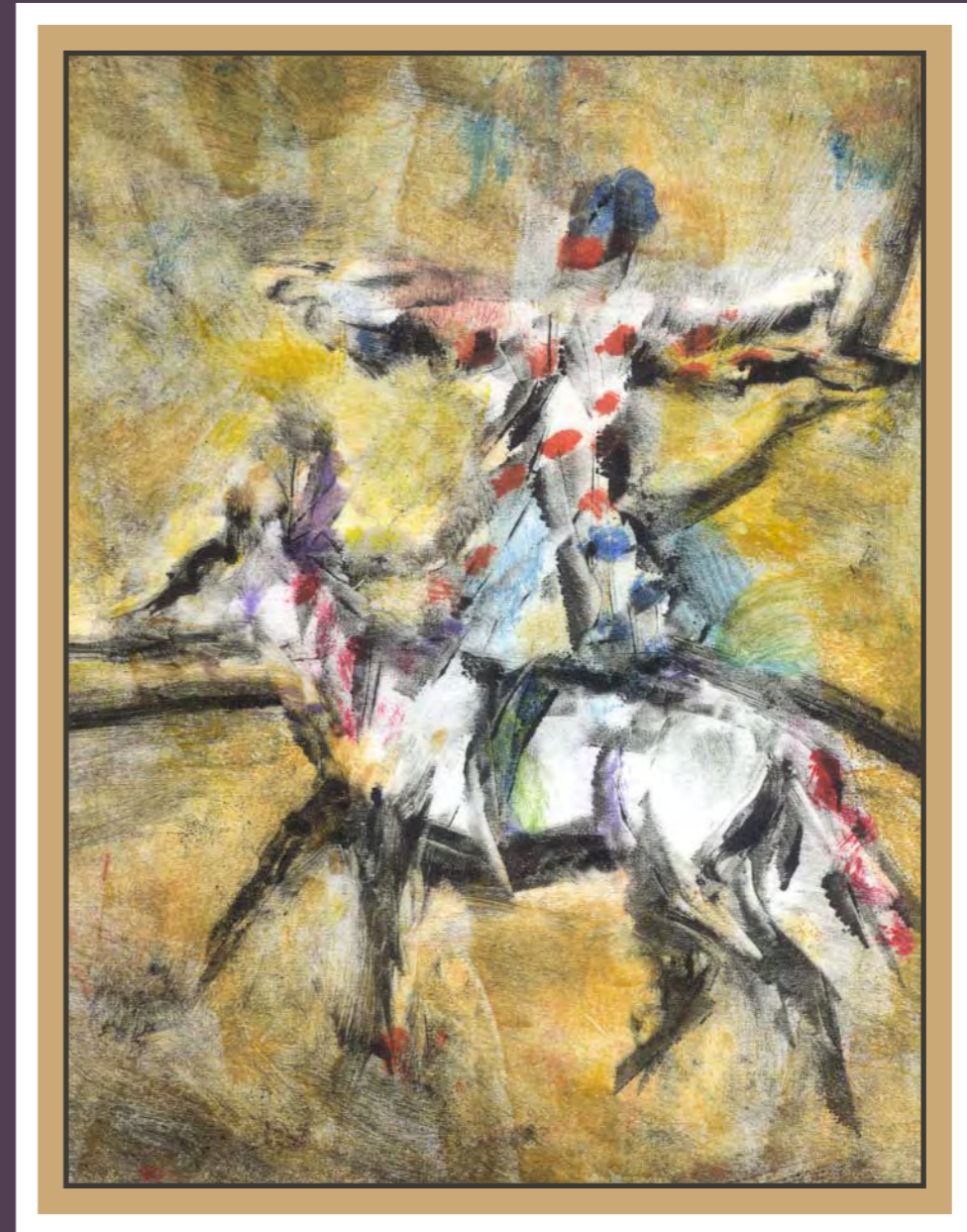
“Like the boys she describes “stunned by the sharpness of their aim,” Joyce Brown takes aim at conveying the small delights and inevitable tragedies of this world. Here is charming, lyrical, and playful poetry, with luminous moments that even the most cynical contemporary reader can trust. But don’t let these well-crafted and often humorous poems deceive you—here we have a poet who refuses to sugarcoat her world, just as she doesn’t allow its harshness to defeat her.”

– Stephen Reichert, Editor, *Smartish Pace*



Mary Swann

Call and Answer



Poems by Joyce Brown
Illustrated by Mary Swann

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