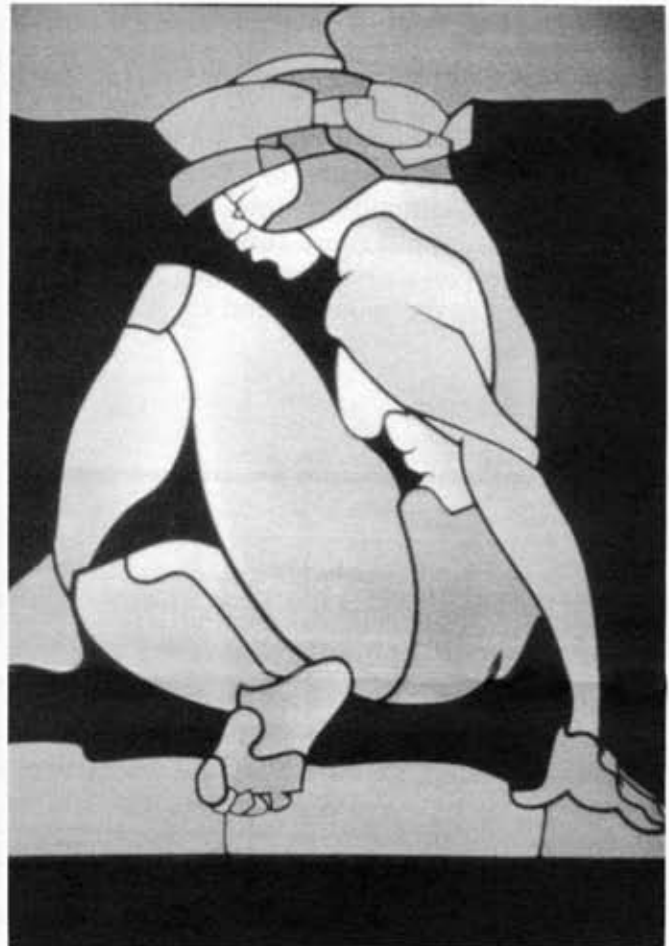




Plain View Press is pleased to announce the publication of *Extending the Shade*, by Betty S. Flowers. This first major collection of Flowers' work contains poetry exquisitely crafted and gathered together over a period of a dozen years. Poems always flow out of a poet's life gracing it, marking time and clarifying important transitions. These poems track the opening of the lotus of being, the shade is extended, celebrating the clear beauty of life, a light in darkness, both of which are salient, neither of which shall be denied—that done with grace—that done because doing it is true.

There is a field of wisdom these poems have been filtered through, growing as they have along with the wisdom itself. As a result of her work as an editor and educator, Flowers has become a Mythologist. She has always been a poet. These beings converge in *Extending the Shade* both in the way individual poems are created—like myths, using metaphor to point to transcendent principles and in the way the parts of the book are arranged: *The Journey, The Garden and The Solid Light*. It is impossible not to see in Flowers' poetry the influence of Joseph Campbell's work. It is equally impossible not to see in the presentation of *The Power of Myth* the hand of the poet. "I think of the poems in the book as moments of a myth that continues to develop and that myth is the story of my life. A poem is a moment in myth. The difference between a story and a myth is that a story occurs in time and a myth is composed of timeless moments that are poems."



Goddess II by Harriet Hyams.

Many of you first saw Betty S. Flowers' poetry in *Four Shields of Power*, (Plain View Press, 1987). It is one of our most popular anthologies. *Extending the Shade* offers an in depth journey into the world of this joyful poet.

Susan Bright

Publication date: December 5, 1989.

Books will be mailed in time for holiday delivery.

ISBN: 0-911051-51-1

The Older Woman Speaks of Love

Your daughter shines like a new leaf.
Her smile I recognize as mine
when you met me, more years
ago than we have left
to love in now. Closer to shore,
we hoist fuller sails, we move
together more directly, we are more
honest. You no longer love to touch
the skin that I am in---
is this more or less of love?

Her body sways with music I have known
with you when I was younger than she is now.
What do I know of love?
In the days and years
of loving you, not there,
I know a trust as certain as the night,
as constant as the painting of a rose.
There are impediments of time, of grace, and yet
my hands reach out more surely through
these bars to you than were I young as she
and turning in the wind to find the sun.

The Guilt of Seeing

Those Victorians are properly despised
who show us girls in yellow curls
lying on deathbeds, blessing villains,
and all that picturesque poverty, those
politely starving workers whose faces,
lifted in hope to heaven, shine.

Yet, to tell the truth, some bird
is always singing in the graveyard,
and the glass from shattered
windshields glitters on the highway
like the sea at noon.

There's a distraction of the eyes
that it's guilt to feel,
that follows the wheel rolling
from the child's crumpled bike.

And still, in the dark,
under these closed eyes,
that contradicting wheel
spins from spokes and rim
a circle of solid light.

Yes, I would like to order _____ signed, numbered copy(ies) of **Extending The Shade** at a cost of \$10 per copy plus (for Texas residents) 8% tax (.80 per book) and postage and handling (\$1.50 per book up to \$6).

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