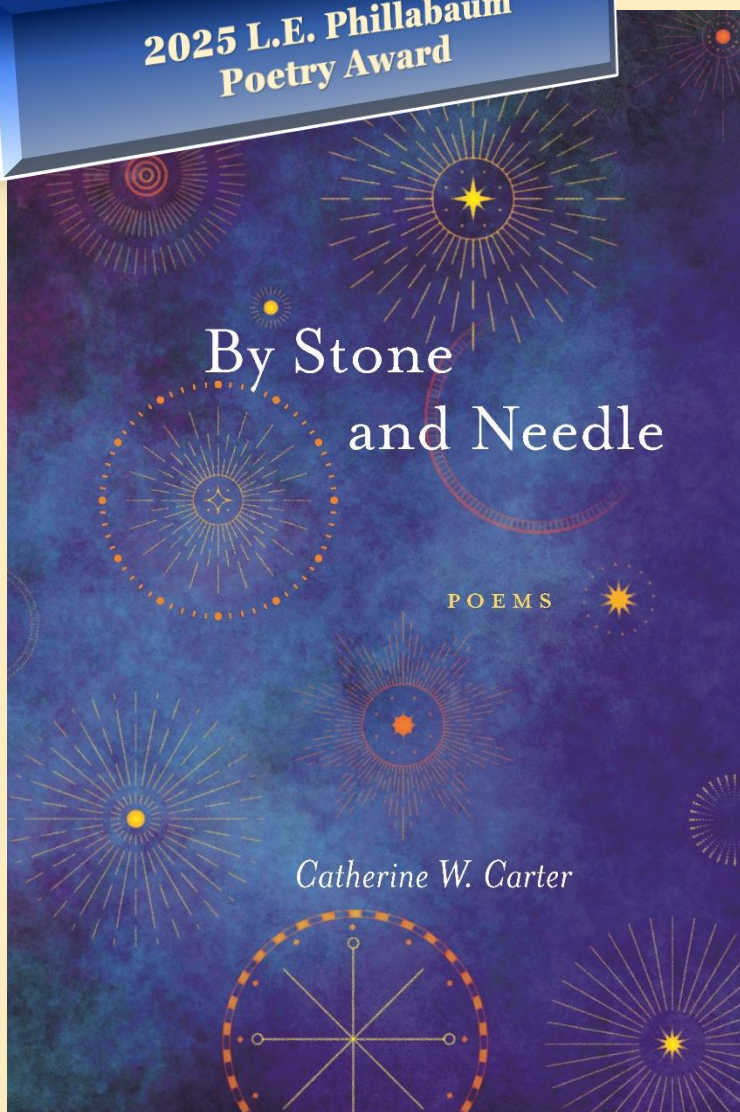


2025 L.E. Phillabaum
Poetry Award



Praise for Catherine Carter's Poetry

"In these superb poems Catherine Carter reveals another world, centered in nature, with a visual and verbal attentiveness that feels not so much observed as conjured, summoned in all its richness and mystery."

—Ron Rash, PEN/Faulkner Award finalist and *New York Times* bestselling author of *Serena* and *The Cove*

"Catherine Carter's poems have long arrived from another realm and she hauntingly dilates that clairvoyant – even oracular – realm in her brilliant *By Stone and Needle* . . . It's impossible to not be astonished, spellbound, and ultimately subsumed, by this verse."

—Joseph Bathanti, North Carolina Poet Laureate (Emeritus)

"The fierce, vibrating intelligence animating Catherine Carter's *By Stone and Needle* is equal to the material world brimming with agency she summons in these densely textured, sumptuous poems."

—Kathryn Kirkpatrick, Brockman-Campbell Award Winner

By STONE and NEEDLE

Poetry by Catherine W. Carter

. . . That labor
of life: the work to work
with the current as it is and yet
to change it just enough, to manifest
a place a little better for bluegills, co-creating
the world in concert with oxygen exchange,
tectonic motion, that smashed and gash-
edged hubcap pinning down an immortal
plastic bag, the gravity of the moon, whirligig
beetles inscribing creek-skin with runes
written in water, whatever God you say. Flood
of protestors in the street's torrent, choking
on blazing air. A woman stirring cut
onions over heat, changing them just enough
to turn their burning tears to something
a little more sweet. Fingers moving the pen, the keys,
the lever, and the air and ground
of our lives ever so slightly shifting
in response, recreated (ever so slightly) anew.
The fearful fact: it matters what you do.

—from "Choptank bluegills take part in the
creation of the world"

Humming with the pulse of the unseen and circling like a compass-needle around the figure of the witch, *By Stone and Needle* is a book of observation and incantation which spins connecting threads between night sweats, witch-drownings, creation stories, pedicures, and goddesses, to name a few—and, especially, between miraculously interconnected ecosystems and the forces which threaten them.

Catherine W. Carter is the author of *The Memory of Gills* (LSU Press), *The Swamp Monster at Home* (LSU Press), *Marks of the Witch* (Jacar Press), *Good Morning, Unseen* (Jacar Press), and *Larvae of the Nearest Stars* (LSU Press). Her work has appeared in *Best American Poetry*, *Orion*, *Ploughshares*, *Poetry*, and elsewhere. She lives in Cullowhee, NC, where she is a Professor of English Studies at Western Carolina University.