

Prairie, Dresses,  
Art, Other

*Danielle Dutton*

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— Kate Briggs

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— cristina rivera garza

In *Prairie, Dresses, Art, Other*, Danielle Dutton imagines new models for how literature might work in our fractured times. Dutton’s writing is as protean as it is beguiling, using the different styles and different spaces of experience to create a collage of the depths and strangeness of contemporary life.

The collection covers an inventive selection of subjects in four eponymous sections which contrast and echo one another, challenging our expectations and pushing the limits of the dream-like worlds and moods that language might create.

‘Prairie’ is a cycle of surreal stories set in the quickly disappearing prairieland of the American Midwest, replete with wildflowers, ominous rivers, fireflies, cattle lowing and ghostly apparitions; ‘Dresses’ paints a wild and moving portrait of literary fashions; ‘Art’ is an imaginative illustrated essay which explores the relationship between fiction and visual art; and ‘Other’ offers an assemblage of irregular stories and essays that are hilarious or heartbreaking by turns.



Danielle Dutton is the author of the novels *Margaret the First* and *SPRAWL*, the prose collection *Attempts at a Life*, the illustrated nonfiction chapbook *A Picture Held Us Captive*, and she wrote the text interpolations for Richard Kraft’s *Here Comes Kitty: A Comic Opera*. Her fiction has appeared in magazines and journals including *The New Yorker*, *The Paris Review*, *The White Review*, *Harper’s*, *BOMB*, and *NOON*. Dutton teaches at Washington University in St. Louis and is cofounder and editor of the award-winning feminist press Dorothy, a publishing project. Born and raised in California, she has lived on the (former) prairie now for roughly twenty years.

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## PRAISE FOR *PRAIRE, DRESSES, ART, OTHER*

Pieces included in *Prairie, Dresses, Art, Other* are not short stories or essays in the strict (and limited) sense, but spells, incantatory hallucinations, organically shared phantasmagoria, bodily immersions in materials worldly and other-wordly. It is a book and yet it is definitely way more: a field of irruptions. This is Dutton at her best yet.

— cristina rivera garza

Danielle Dutton is a writer whose work I wait for. When a new book comes, I keep it very close, marvelling at how her writing combines such extraordinary acts of precision, drawing forth strangeness and new presentations of beauty, with her own singular and searching, expansive style of intelligence. Her growing body of work is among the most formally inventive (and therefore essential) I can think of, and *Prairie, Dresses, Art, Other* is a vital, enlivening addition to it.

— Kate Briggs

I know it sounds absurd, but I am fairly certain that some undiscovered, hallucinogenic essence is working through Danielle Dutton's surreal and disorienting prose because the prairie I thought I knew is not, I now realise, the prairie I know at all. ¡Carajo! Whatever chaos or existential doubt is unearthed by these uncanny and highly stylized contemporary parables deserves to be played out. This book is so wild – I'm obsessed.

—Lara Mimosa Montes

In a world where planetary catastrophe has become perfectly ordinary, Danielle Dutton's lush and startling new collection reimagine familiar forms to show us how works of art can still unmoor us, help us reckon with all those losses and holes and glitches in what now passes for the real and powerfully insist on the strangeness of strange times.

—Jennifer Hodgson

## ABOUT PROTOTYPE

Founded in 2019, Prototype is a publisher of fiction, poetry, anthologies and interdisciplinary projects. With an emphasis on producing unique and beautiful books, we are committed to creating new possibilities in publishing and championing the work of new and established voices in contemporary literature.

Recent fiction titles include *Lori & Joe* by Amy Arnold, shortlisted for the Goldsmiths Prize, Jen Calleja's novel *Vehicle*, shortlisted for the Short Fiction/University of Essex Prize, and Yuri Felsen's lost modernist novel *Deceit*, in its first English translation by Bryan Karetnyk and Derek Jarman's sole piece of narrative fiction, *Through the Billboard Promised Land Without Ever Stopping*.

Recent poetry titles include *Virgula*, the award-winning collection by Dutch poet Sasja Janssen, in translation by Michele Hutchison, *Incubation: a space for monsters* by Bhanu Kapil, in its first UK edition, and Lavinia Singer's collection *Artifice*. In 2022 we published *Journeys Across Breath*, the first volume of collected poems by Stephen Watts, and Lucy Mercer's debut collection *Emblem*, which was The Poetry Book Society's Summer Choice for 2022.