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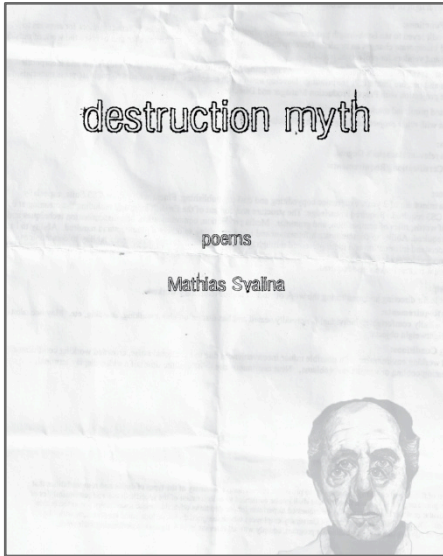
NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

November 23, 2009

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Destruction Myth

poems by **Mathias Svalina**

7 x 8.5 x .24”

83 pp. \$15.95 paper

ISBN 978-1-880834-87-9, LCCN 2009028515

Destruction Myth responds irreverently to the primal origins of poetry and folklore. It points out the inherent surrealism and silliness of origin stories, while also implicitly respecting this silliness. It displays an aesthetic directly traceable to the pre-modern fabulist origins of Kafka, Samuel Beckett’s absurdities, and James Tate’s forms of surrealism. *Destruction Myth* brings a postmodern sense of irony as not an attitude but a way of understanding the truth.

“If I feel physically as if the top of my head is taken off and replaced

with a soft serve ice cream machine, I am pretty sure it is poetry. Svalina’s book does no less, and also so much more. Read but also believe this book of fantastic lies. It’s like how you see a cat sitting there and you think ‘that is just a cat’ and then you realize that cat is God. Mathias Svalina has reinvented Yahweh as an Animorph. When this book is taught in college classrooms, students will curl up on the air conditioning vents and ask for salt.”

—**Anne Boyer**

“Inspired, concise, often macabre yet always joyful, these creation myths are filled with a thousand odd, jagged miracles. A truly exhilarating read. Bravo!”

— **Linh Dinh**

“In the beginning, we were children and we had beautiful imaginations, but we had no home for them. Then up sprouted Mathias Svalina’s *Destruction Myth* and we did. It too was beautiful, bloody, silly, haunted. At first we thought it was godly, and then we discovered it was human. We feared it; we loved it; we slept with it under our pillows.”

— **Eleni Sikelianos**

Mathias Svalina was born in Chicago, where his parents were both chemists. He is the author of five chapbooks as well as five collaboratively written chapbooks. His work has been published widely in journals such as *American Letters & Commentary*, *The Boston Review*, *Diagram*, *jubilat*, and *Typo*. He has won fellowships and awards from The Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference, *The Iowa Review* and New Michigan Press among other places. With Zachary Schomburg, he co-edits *Octopus Magazine* and Octopus Books. He currently teaches writing and literature in Denver, Colorado. *Destruction Myth* is his first book.

Ordering Information: For a full list of titles, please visit www.csuohio.edu/poetrycenter. Books are available through SPD (Small Press Distribution) at www.spdbooks.org, Amazon.com, and BarnesAndNoble.com as well

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