



KAYLEB RAE

CANDRILLI



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POET

Kayleb Rae Candrilli is a recipient of a 2019 Whiting Award and is author of *What Runs Over*, winner of the 2016 Pamet River Prize, with YesYes Books. *What Runs Over* was a 2017 Lambda Literary finalist for Transgender Poetry and a finalist for the 2018 American Book Fest's best book award in LGBTQ nonfiction. Candrilli is also author of *All the Gay Saints*, winner of the 2018 Saturnalia Book Prize and forthcoming in 2020. Their third collection, *Water I Won't Touch*, is forthcoming with Coper Canyon Press in 2021. They are published or forthcoming in *POETRY*, *American Poetry Review*, *Academy of American Poets*, *TriQuarterly*, *Puerto del Sol*, *Booth*, *RHINO*, *Cream City Review*, *Hayden's Ferry Review*, *Adroit*, *Bettering American Poetry*, *Boaat Press*, *Vinyl*, *CutBank*, *Muzzle*, *New Orleans Review*, and many others.

Candrilli has served as the nonfiction editor of the *Black Warrior Review* and as a feature editor for *NANO Fiction*. They served as an Assistant Poetry Editor for *Boaat Press* from 2017 to 2018. In 2015, Candrilli was a Lambda Literary Emerging Fellow in Nonfiction, and again in 2017 as a fellow in poetry. Kayleb is a Best of the Net winner and has been nominated for Pushcart Prizes (in prose and poetry) and for Best New Poets. They were also a 2017 recipient of a Leeway Art and Change Grant.



In looping imagery of animals and decay, Candrilli gives their uncompromising vision of the wages of familial love and the various ways a young person can devise their own escape. They show how language has the power to shape and to misshape the self, and their work feels as urgent and electric as a living thing.

– The 2019 Whiting Selection Committee

PUBLICATIONS:

WHAT RUNS OVER
YESYES BOOKS, 2017

ALL THE GAY SAINTS
SATURNALIA, 2020

WATER I WON'T TOUCH
COPPER CANYON, 2021



Kaveh Akbar
on *What Runs Over*

When Roethke said 'energy is the soul of poetry,' he might have been anticipating a book like *What Runs Over*, which is so full of energy it practically vibrates in your hand. Here, Candrilli's speaker sticks their tongue 'into the heads / of venus fly traps just to feel the bite,' then later, burns holy books in the backyard and rolls around in the ashes until they become 'a painted god.' This is the verve of an urgent new poetic voice announcing itself to the world. As Candrilli writes: 'This is what I look like / when I'm trying to save myself.'



Natalie Diaz
on *All the Gay Saints*

All the Gay Saints has a lexicon all its own, one that reveals a devastating and beautiful geography of the body and its futurity. In lines such as, "Asperitas / is the wave that rises before the end / of something that looks most / like the world.." we are offered a new world, or at least the promise of its possibility. In this still-forming world, the body, in all its triumphs and losses, strangenesses and normalcies, in all the yet to be discovered and joyful states of neither, is fully present and visible. The emotional landscape of this process is reiterated as the natural world, as land, atmosphere, touch. "Queer, what you have in your hair is all down feathers, dandelion stems, and / the ways in which you've saved me. When we take new names, we give each / other permission." The new names in this book are ones you'll want to read aloud.

Honors

Whiting Award Recipient
Lambda Literary Finalist
American Best Book Finalist
Best of the Net Winner
Leeway Art & Change Recipient

BOOK KAYLEB

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FEATURE READER

CAMPUS VISITS

WRITING WORKSHOPS

MANUSCRIPT EDITING

COMMISSIONED POETRY

LGBTQ OUTREACH



KAYLEB_RAE

**During my top surgery consultation, my partner says
to the doctor, tell me what you will do to their veins**

and no answer will satisfy true
blood flow or this boy who loves me.

The truth is, as I sleep, everything directly above
my heart will be cauterized.

Facts are difficult
if you are able to recognize them

as fact. And I am scared
of my partner

being faced with my blood
because I love them.

When we talk of the future, my future chest is as flat
as our future backyard. We plant

a lemon tree and it grows
even in winter.

