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### **Universal image of war is prominent in new award-winning collection**

PITTSBURGH—The University of Pittsburgh Press has just published *Water Puppets*, the third volume of poetry by Quan Barry, winner of the 2010 Donald Hall Prize for Poetry from the Association of Writers and Writing Programs (AWP). In this collection, Barry explores the universal image of war and its aftermath, as evidenced in Afghanistan and Iraq, as well as Vietnam, the country of her birth.

In the long poem “meditations,” Barry examines her guilt in initially supporting the invasion of Iraq. But in addition to the gravity of war, Barry turns her signature lyricism to more serene topics such as the beauty of Peru and the work of painter Ana Fernandez.

“These poems impress with the enormous and energetic distances they travel. More impressive, however, is the focus they show on arrival. We are everywhere, but everywhere is distinctly somewhere—and often dangerous,” said Alberto Álvaro Ríos, AWP judge. “These words . . . relentlessly address their—and our—changing and unchanging world against the loose backdrop of Vietnamese water-puppet theater, whose imaginative traditions show themselves in repeatedly memorable moments.”

Barry is professor of English at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is the author of two previous poetry collections: *Asylum*, winner of the 2000 Agnes Lynch Starrett Poetry Prize; and *Controvertibles*. Her poems have appeared in the *New Yorker*, *Missouri Review*, *Ploughshares*, and *Kenyon Review*, among other publications. Barry has received fellowships from Stanford University, the Wisconsin Institute for Creative Writing, the Wisconsin Arts Board, and the National Endowment of the Arts.

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