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## **New poetry collection explores what it means to be 'white' in multi-racial world**

PITTSBURGH—"White Papers is a series of untitled poems that deal with race from a number of personal, historical, and cultural perspectives," said author Martha Collins about her new collection. "The styles and forms vary, but my primary focus is on what it has meant, and what it means, to be 'white' in a multi-racial and often racist society."

In early praise of the book, *Booklist* stated, "Collins continues the inquiry into race that shaped *Blue Front* (2006) in this startling and provocative collection, exploring the motif and myth of racial 'whiteness.' Within the stark chromatic scale of black, white, and gray, Collins evokes a dazzling spectrum of palpable emotions, racial tensions, and unraveling binaries."

Thomas Sayers Ellis echoed the admiration: "White Papers is that difficult beginning, the one beneath traditional poetic confessions of written whiteness," he said. "Collins transforms the history of America's troubled racial roots and, most importantly, her own into a slide show of non-capitalized flesh . . . honest and powerful." *Publishers Weekly* said Collins' poems "achieve a kind of breathless resonance."

A native of Omaha, Nebraska, Collins is the author of several poetry collections, including the book-length poem *Blue Front*, winner of the Anisfield-Wolf Book Award and chosen by the N.Y. Public Library as one of "25 Books to Remember from 2006;" *Some Things Words Can Do*; *The Arrangement of Space*, and *The Catastrophe of Rainbows*.

Her awards also include fellowships from the Bunting Institute, Ingram Merrill Foundation, and the Witter Bynner Foundation. She received three Pushcart Prizes, the Alice Fay Di Castagnola Award, and a Lannan residency grant. Collins founded the Creative Writing Program at UMass-Boston in 1979. She resides in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and is currently editor-at-large for *FIELD* magazine and an editor for Oberlin College Press.

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