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Poet takes his talents to a higher level in second collection

PITTSBURGH—The University of Pittsburgh Press has just published the second poetry collection by Rick Hilles, *A Map of the Lost World*. Acclaimed critic Harold Bloom praised the volume by saying, “With *A Map of the Lost World*, Rick Hilles emerges into an importance that may rival such poets of his generation as Henri Cole and Rosanna Warren . . . I emerge from this book somber yet fortified because like Kafka, it reminds us of a kind of indestructibility of the human spirit.”

According to Hilles, *A Map of the Lost World* shares something with his debut collection *Brother Salvage*. “I can tell you that this new book feels very connected to the first book in terms of its obsessions—memory, what is at risk of getting lost,” he said.

“It’s always a challenge for me to generate new material, Hilles remarked. “But I really love the challenge: the thrill when suddenly something feels just right. I may need to think about things a long time and revise and revise again, but, if I stay with it, I know I’ll find my way!”

Hilles is assistant professor of English at Vanderbilt University and the author of *Brother Salvage*, winner of the Agnes Lynch Starrett Poetry Prize. Hilles has been the Amy Lowell Poetry Traveling Scholar, a Wallace Stegner Fellow at Stanford University, and a Ruth and Jay C. Halls Fellow at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is the recipient of a Whiting Writers’ Award and the Larry Levis Editor’s Prize in Poetry from *The Missouri Review*.

When asked to define success for a poet writing today, Hilles said, “For me, the answer is somewhat deceptively simple: It requires building a life that fuels the mind and head and heart and body and soul, from which one is able to write the poems that one feels one is born to write.”

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