For immediate release December 11, 2011

Minneapolis poet wins 2011 Agnes Lynch Starrett Prize

PITTSBURGH—Dore Kiesselbach is the winner of the 2011 Agnes Lynch Starrett Poetry Prize—one of America’s most distinguished awards for a first book of poetry—for his collection Salt Pier. It will be published by the University of Pittsburgh Press, prize sponsor, in the fall of 2012. The Minneapolis author’s manuscript was selected from over 630 entries, with Ed Ochester, Pitt Poetry Series editor, serving as judge.

“Winning the prize is a personal continental divide,” remarked the 47-year-old writer. “It establishes a new before and a new after. It makes me glad for my obstinacy and grateful to those who helped me indulge it.”

Kiesselbach described Salt Pier as “a zygote’s-eye view of the universe, a compendium of processes, a dog-eared family recipe for primordial soup.”

A native of Chapel Hill, North Carolina, Kiesselbach was raised in California. He studied English and Creative Writing at Oberlin College, and at the University of Iowa, where he held a U.S. Department of Education Javits fellowship. He has published widely, in magazines such as the Antioch Review, Field, New Letters, Boulevard, Malahat Review and Poetry.

In 2009, Kiesselbach won Britain’s Bridport Prize for his poem “Non-invasive,” and was a finalist for the Starrett. An avid “backyardist,” he lives in Minneapolis with his wife, the master gardener Karin Ciano.

# # #