

Maria Sticco, Publicist
e-mail: mes5@pitt.edu
tel: (412) 383-2493 fax: (412) 383-2466

3400 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15260
tel: (412) 383-2456 fax: (412) 383-2466
www.upress.pitt.edu

For immediate release October 28, 2012

Poet's new volume explores life's journeys, crossing borders to new ideas

PITTSBURGH—Colleen McElroy said her latest collection offers a view of twenty-first-century boundaries, where home can be as transitory as the weather, and which continuously alter our perceptions of our bodies, the planet, and the spaces we inhabit. "The poems in *Here I Throw Down My Heart* say don't believe everything you see, look again," she explained.

The theme of boundaries is evident in several poem titles, such as "Crossing Oceans," "Liquid Borders" and "Going There": *we will cross where the border is porous / where deals are unmade and papers transparent . . . we'll cross before darkness can hide us / and no one can find us if the border disappears.*

"The always smart and effective poetry of Colleen McElroy becomes seductive in *Here I Throw Down My Heart*. On topics from marriage to the military to ageing, McElroy's poems are film noir voodoo magic," stated Diane Wakoski.

"*Here I Thrown Down My Heart* is amazing . . . One of McElroy's very best, I think," said Valerie Trueblood. "Kafka says art should mangle us, and McElroy has done it."

McElroy is professor emeritus of English and creative writing at the University of Washington. She is the former editor in chief of the literary magazine *Seattle Review* and has published nine poetry collections, most recently *Sleeping with the Moon*, for which she received a 2008 PEN/Oakland National Literary Award. Her latest collections of creative nonfiction include *A Long Way from St. Louis* and *Over the Lip of the World: Among the Storytellers of Madagascar*, which was a finalist in the 2000 PEN USA Research-based Creative Nonfiction category.

McElroy has received the Before Columbus American Book Award, two Fulbright Research Fellowships, two NEA Fellowships (fiction and poetry), a DuPont Visiting Scholar Fellowship, and a Rockefeller Fellowship. She resides in Seattle, Washington.

#

Here I Throw Down my Heart, poems by Colleen J. McElroy, is published by the University of Pittsburgh Press • 112 pp. • 6 x 8.75 • ISBN 9780822962052 • Paper \$15.95