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### **Elegiac poems reveal author's maturity and skill**

PITTSBURGH—"The *Book of Ten* is Susan Wood's fourth book of poems, and it is her best, which is saying something," remarked acclaimed poet Stanley Plumly. "If the truest poem is, at heart, an elegy, then the thirty-two examples here mark an advance in the capacity of poetry to work out and work through attitudes of grief. It would be inadequate to read Wood's new poems as simply beautiful lyric narratives—when they are totalities of feeling, moving between lament and wit with the skill of an imperative."

*The Book of Ten* has just been published by the University of Pittsburgh Press. Featured in this volume is a series of poems about life's choices, based on "The Decalogue," ten short films by the Polish director Krzysztof Kieslowski. Each film represents one of the Ten Commandments.

Born in 1946 in Commerce, Texas, Wood is Gladys Louise Fox Professor of English at Rice University in Houston. Her teaching interests are creative writing, contemporary poetry, and medicine and literature.

Wood is the author of *Bazaar* and *Campo Santo*, which was the Lamont Poetry Selection for 1991 and won the Natalie Ornish Prize of the Texas Institute of Letters. Her third book, *Asunder*, was chosen by Garrett Hongo for the National Poetry Series. She has received fellowships from the NEA and the Guggenheim Foundation. Her poems have appeared in the *Antioch Review*, *Missouri Review*, *Ploughshares*, *Northwest Review*, *Poetry*, among other publications.

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