

Houston, Texas – November 18, 2019 – Press Release: Saint Julian Press is proud to announce a new book of poetry. *Still-Life With God*, by author Cynthia Atkins, will be for preorder in December 2019, and on March 11, 2020. In *Still-Life with God*, Cynthia Atkins excavates and studies the spiritual life, a bold cautionary tale of the plight of the self to question our destiny and our place in the world. The poet addresses questions of gender, body, mental health/illness, gun violence and a search for the divine. With a wide psychological net and narrative depth, she renders coming of age, adulthood, motherhood, womanhood, self-hood.



“In Cynthia Atkins’ *Still-Life With God*, the material world becomes a rubric for faith, all its threats and losses a constant test for what we believe in and what we can bear. With packed lyricism and astonishing leaps, Atkins studies how easily God manifests as a new object in our lives, and how quickly the mutable self, starts becoming an image that can be ‘shared and liked.’ Although the dangers of the world sear through everything, there’s also a reverence for the “exquisite human machine of pathos and debris.” Just as a door compels us to knock, these poems make you sit up, astonished, a little wild with awe.”

—Traci Brimhall
Author of *Come the Slumberless to the Land of Nod*

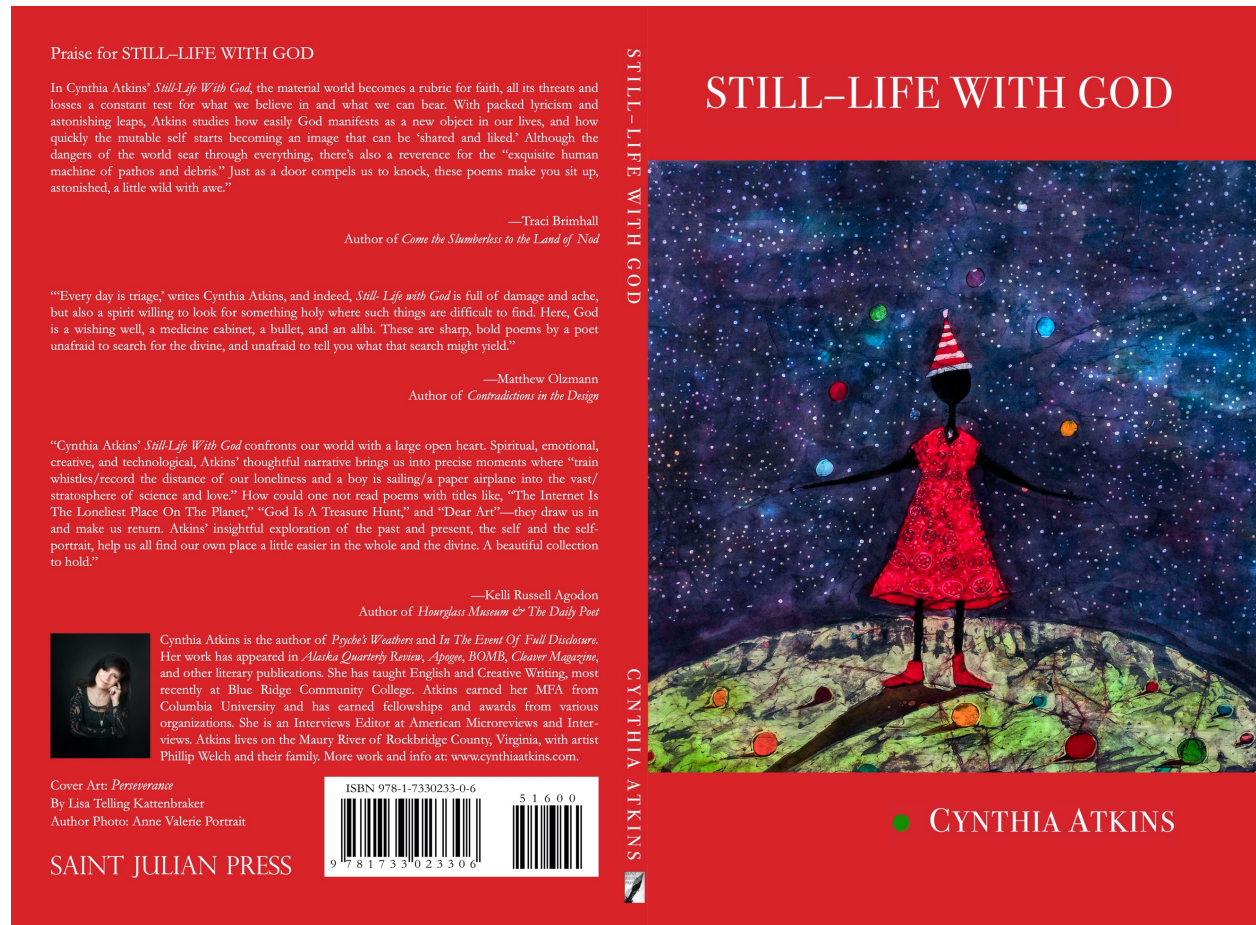
“Every day is triage,’ writes Cynthia Atkins, and indeed, *Still-Life with God* is full of damage and ache, but also a spirit willing to look for something holy where such things are difficult to find. Here, God is a wishing well, a medicine cabinet, a bullet, and an alibi. These are sharp, bold poems by a poet unafraid to search for the divine, and unafraid to tell you what that search might yield.”

—Matthew Olzmann
Author of *Contradictions in the Design*

“Cynthia Atkins’ *Still-Life With God* confronts our world with a large open heart. Spiritual, emotional, creative, and technological, Atkins’ thoughtful narrative brings us into precise moments where “train whistles/record the distance of our loneliness and a boy is sailing/a paper airplane into the vast/ stratosphere of science and love.” How could one not read poems with titles like, “The Internet Is The Loneliest Place On The Planet,” “God Is A Treasure Hunt,” and “Dear Art”—they draw us in and make us return. Atkins’ insightful exploration of the past and present, the self and the self-portrait, help us all find our own place a little easier in the whole and the divine. A beautiful collection to hold.”

—Kelli Russell Agodon
Author of *Hourglass Museum*
and *The Daily Poet*

Cynthia Atkins is the author of *Psyche's Weathers* and *In The Event Of Full Disclosure*. Her work has appeared in numerous journals, including *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *Apogee*, *BOMB*, *Cleaver Magazine*, *Cortland Review*, *Cultural Weekly*, *Diode*, *Florida Review*, *Green Mountains Review*, *North American Review*, *Seneca Review*, *Tampa Review*, *Tinderbox*, *Thrush*, *Valparaiso Review*, and *Verses Daily*. Formerly the assistant director for the Poetry Society of America, she has taught English and Creative Writing, most recently at Blue Ridge Community College, where she curated a quarterly Reading Series. Atkins is an Interviews Editor at *American Microreviews and Interviews*. She earned her MFA from Columbia University, and fellowships and prizes from Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, The Writer's Voice, and Writers@Work, with several nominations from The Pushcart and Best of the Net Prizes. More work and info at: www.cynthiaatkins.com.



Praise for STILL-LIFE WITH GOD

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CYNTHIA ATKINS

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Saint Julian Press, Inc. * Houston, TX 77008 * Ron Starbuck ~ Publisher-CEO
Phone: 281-734-8721 * Email: ronstarbuck@saintjulianpress.com * Web: www.saintjulianpress.com