



Nodin Press

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World Enough and Time

New and Selected Poems

Norita Dittberner-Jax

This volume contains new poems along with a retrospective look at Norita Dittberner-Jax's long career as a poet. The themes and images vary, as have the phases of her personal life, though an underlying continuum of family and community connections is ever-present. Individual poems often seem to be working to establish a coherent shape, a balance, a beauty, in the midst of challenging and sometimes dreadful experiences, including her beloved husband's last years with ALS and her own cancer diagnosis. Several recent poems offer naked descriptions of dealing with solitude and unearthing the sanctity of quotidian events and seemingly vacant hours. From first to last, the poet remains inspired by the comfort and beauty of the natural world and grateful for the rich life she's lived, her love of art, childhood memories, time spent in the classroom and traveling abroad, and the liveliness of the city. Wistfulness, joy, outrage, desperation, and reverence: it's all here, flowing with the lyrical pulse of a Psalm.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Norita Dittberner-Jax was born and raised in the Frogtown neighborhood of Saint Paul, the sixth of seven children. She was educated in parochial schools and graduated from the (then) College of Saint Catherine. She started writing when her children were young, just as the Twin Cities area was becoming a center for creative writing with the emergence of the Loft. She taught English in the public schools of Saint Paul, and creative writing for the Writers-in-the Schools Program and at the Perpich Center for the Arts. Her second marriage, to Eugene Jax, brought international travel and a great interest in art. In retirement from teaching, she returned to academic life, earning an MFA in poetry from Hamline University. Norita is one of the poetry editors for Red Bird Chapbooks.

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