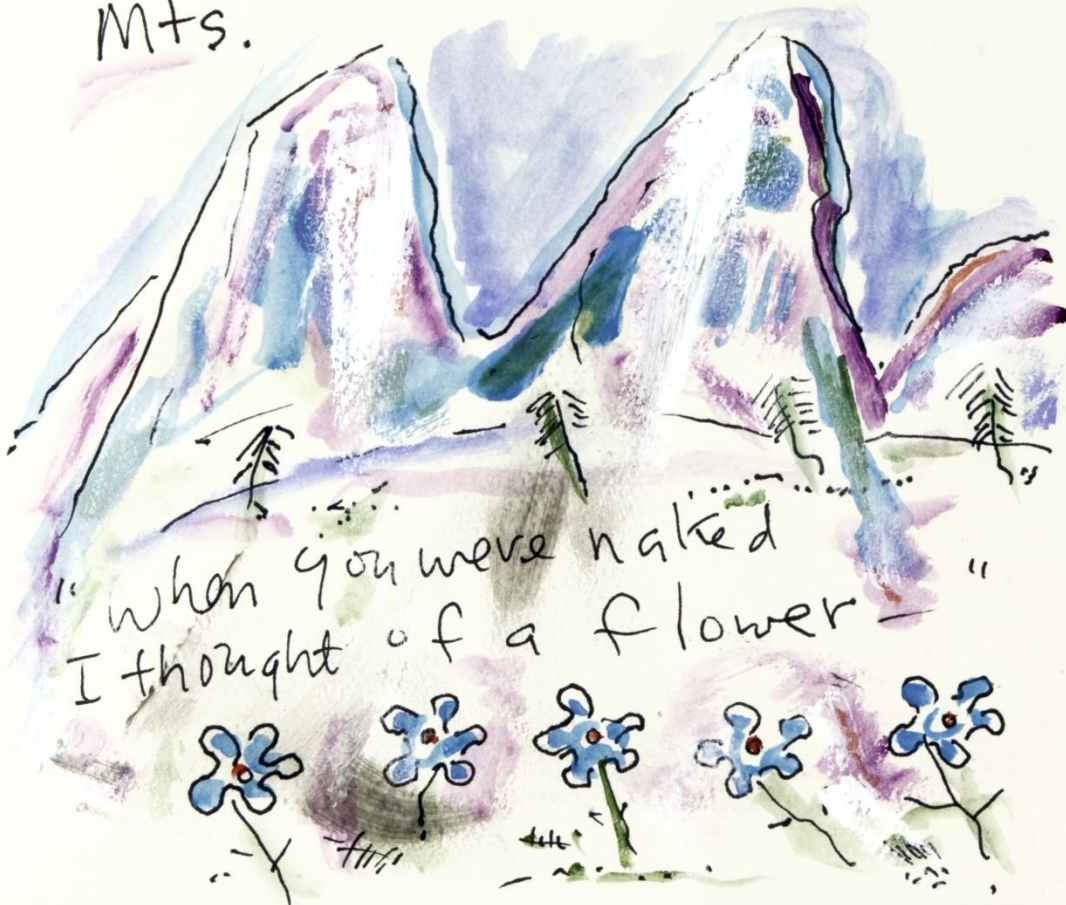


Walt Curtis courtesy of Marian Wood Kolisch from *Portraits* © 2004

Rhymes For Alice Bluelight  
#18 of twenty-five  
Walt Curtis 2011

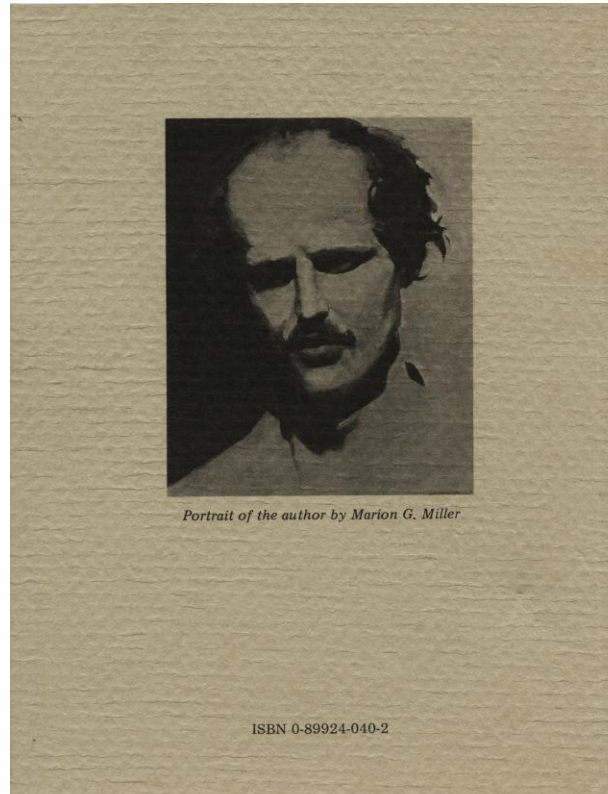
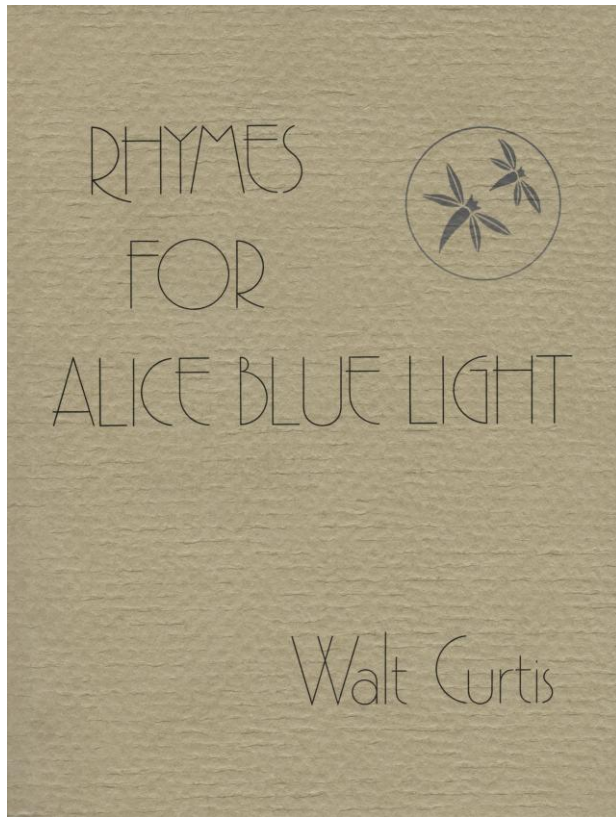
Mts.



"when you were naked  
I thought of a flower"

Rhymes For Alice Bluelight  
#22 of twenty-five  
Walt Curtis 2011





Lynx House Press published this well received 1984 volume of the poetry Walt Curtis had written through 1983, the first half of his poetic career to date.

Publisher Chris Howell recently sold OCHC some of these remaining first edition copies, and Walt Curtis did his magic in illustrating them with unique images. As he puts it “What an improvisational Zen-like experience it was—opening these rare, handsome books, taking brush and indelible ink to the virgin page to create a unique frontispiece, each image creatively done in the moment... Thanks to Tao, God or Goddess—the series is complete.”

## Order your uniquely illustrated copy of *Rhymes for Alice Blue Light*

Select your preferred image by letter or number from this catalog and write down a key phrase from the text.

Write what you'd like referenced in the dedication, if anything, for yourself or the recipient of your gift. Poet Walt Curtis may add his own flourish. Add to that information your name, mailing address, a contact telephone number, and an email if possible. Or indicate the name and address of the recipient of your gift.

Send the information described above with a check for \$250 to: OCHC, PO Box 3588, Portland, OR 97208. You will receive your unique first-edition copy of *Rhymes for Alice Blue Light* well packaged and tracked by return mail. \$225 of your check is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by tax law. You will receive a tax donation letter from the non-profit Oregon Cultural Heritage Commission that administers the Walt Curtis Legacy Initiative.

All volumes are sold first come, first served. If your preferred choice is already taken, we'll reach you by phone or email to discuss an alternate choice, or return your payment.

To date only 8 of the 52 copies are sold.

Thanks for your interest and support.

## Customize an image in *Rhymes for Alice Blue Light*

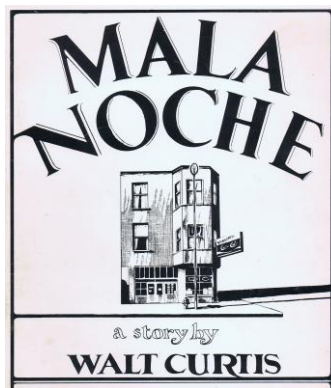
Should you wish to have Walt Curtis customize an image to your taste, and of course his, please reach us to discuss the notion. Consider his creating your own letter of the alphabet or a special gift for a special friend.

The price will be \$500, of which \$475 is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by tax law. You will receive a tax donation letter from the non-profit Oregon Cultural Heritage Commission that administers the Walt Curtis Legacy Initiative.

The best way to reach us is to write to [encanto@ochcom.org](mailto:encanto@ochcom.org) with the tag line *Walt Curtis Special Edition*. Please include your name, mailing address, phone, email and basic idea. We'll respond as quickly as possible.

This offer is limited to the availability of first edition copies from Lynx House Press, which are in very limited supply.

Cover and illustration from the *Mississippi Mud* edition of *Mala Noche* © 1977



## Out of the Ashes:

Portland's unofficial Poet Laureate Walt Curtis, born in Olympia, Washington (July 4, 1941), and raised in Oregon City, popped into the public eye during his years at Portland State University. This sometimes shy bard channeled a dramatic *élan vital*, spoke out boldly against the Vietnam War and came into his own fully in tune with the raw-boned humanity and the dramatic natural world that make his home region nonpareil.

In that era, PSU lofted dozens of individuals who have crafted sustained creative careers—artists, actors, filmmakers, musicians, and authors galore—the very roots of Portland's style nonpareil. Reed and Lewis and Clark contributed talent to the mix. As today, folks came from afar to share the vibe and expand it.

Walt is a declaiming poet, on his best days mesmerizing an audience, be that in smoky bars, concert halls, or the great outdoors. Poetry flows from him like honey from the hive.

A personal mythos has evolved through his 40-year-running KBOO spoken-word show, *The Talking Earth*. He's been featured alongside William Burroughs, Allen Ginsberg, and Ken Kesey, and served as host of poetic hoo-haas in dozens of venues, many long-gone.

In the early 1970s Reed dropout Norman Solomon joined Walt in creating *Out of the Ashes* to move their very distinctive personal work into print. Walt's early publications range from the newsprint *The Roses of Portland*, deemed subversive by the *Oregon Journal's* Doug Baker, through *Mad Bomber's Notebook* and *The Erotic Flying Machine*, to his near-breakthrough *Rhymes for Alice Blue Light* from Lynx House Press of Amherst, Massachusetts.

Walt burst onto a larger stage with the novella *Mala Noche*, first a special issue of *Mississippi Mud*. The book is now in French and Italian editions. Filmmaker Gus Van Sant drew on its tangled tale of gay love to launch his own career with the low-budget feature *Mala Noche*, progenitor of his many quirky masterworks.

# Walt Curtis Revisited

Walt's seize-the-day *persona dramatica* appears in the film, as he did earlier in Penny Allen's *Property* and *Paydirt*, and later in Bill Plympton's *Peckerman Poet* and Sabrina Guitart's *Salmon Poet*.

Ever inquisitive, Walt amassed deep information about the Northwest's literature and creative culture, writing features in *Clinton St. Quarterly* and *Multnomah Monthly* on John Reed, Joaquin Miller, Hazel Hall, Homer Davenport, and Charles Erskine Scott Wood, along with cultural observations, splashy revelations, and poetic flagellations in dozens of periodicals of every stripe.

Walt co-founded Oregon Cultural Heritage Commission, in its 3<sup>rd</sup> decade a legacy itself. His high-profile career in letters was honored by Literary Arts in 1991 with its fifth annual Stewart H. Holbrook Award.

He has further carved out a major *métier* on canvas and wood, wielding his paintbrush in the same bold fashion as his written verse and prose—bright, uninhibited, egregious. Represented for years by Mark Woolley, Walt's paintings are highlights in dozens of prestigious collections.

Sunday May 2, 2010, as Great NW Bookstore on Portland's SW 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue went up in smoke, Walt was there, having just moved into the venerable building, its wing designed by iconic architect A.E. Doyle. The blaze toasted the life business of his host Phil Wikelund, damaging much of Walt's work. Yet he emerged singed but unscathed, as the *Out of the Ashes* foretold his spirit beyond burning.

A proclamation released by Portland Mayor Sam Adams states, "civic-minded friends are uniting ... to reestablish his personal studio and residence, and consolidate his regional and international reputation."

You can play a part. A largely tax-deductible purchase of a uniquely illustrated first-edition volume of *Rhymes for Alice Blue Light*, one of the 52 pictured here, will help underpin Walt's journey as he reprises his career.



**Walt Curtis & Marian Wood Kolisch – David Milholland © 1998**

**We honor Marian for her generosity and talent –  
third generation offspring of Nannie and  
Charles Erskine Scott Wood**

## Order your copy of *Walt Curtis A to Z* today

You've seen a sampling of the images and text in *Walt Curtis A to Z*, a limited edition book that is a window into the world of one of America's most talented poet-painters. It serves as a catalog for the unique copies of the 52 image set created within volumes of the 1984 *Rhymes for Alice Blue Light*. To visit a selection of choices, having this catalog is your first important step.

Copies of *Walt Curtis A to Z* are available postpaid for \$35.

Thanks for your interest and support.

