

Immediate Release: 23 September 2013

EFFIGIES

A new publication by Pascale Petit & Lawand
Published by The Mosaic Rooms 19 October 2013

"No other British poet I am aware of can match the powerful mythic imagination of Pascale Petit." Les Murray, Times Literary Supplement Books of the Year.

KEYNOTE

Award winning poet Pascale Petit presents her latest collection **Effigies**, 15 poems directly inspired by the hauntingly emotive drawings of Syrian Kurdish artist Lawand. The collection will launch on 19th October at The Mosaic Rooms in a limited edition art book to accompany Lawand's first UK solo exhibition entitled *Equinox, From Beirut to London*.

SALES POINTS

- Engages with the current crisis in Syria: "In the background there is the shadow of the terrible situation in Lawand's homeland, Syria" (Pascale Petit).
- Will appeal to readers of Pascale Petit's latest collection, *What the Water Gave Me: Poems after Frida Kahlo* (Seren, 2010), which was shortlisted for both the T.S. Eliot Prize and Wales Book of the Year and was an Observer Book of the Year.
- Expected media coverage to include the Guardian, Financial Times Weekend, Guardian, Observer, Daily Telegraph, Sunday Telegraph, Independent, Metro.

DESCRIPTION

"I had never seen his [Lawand's] work before and was stunned by the power of his figures, emerging from mist, so ethereal and wounded, yet bathed in hard-won light. I knew at once that it would be an exciting challenge to write them..." (Pascale Petit) A limited edition book featuring 15 poems by Pascale Petit and 34 original drawings by the artist Lawand.

Extract from *Hoopoe Boy*

Now the sky is below him, the earth, above.
Night is on his right, day on his left.
He must dance through the blade of twilight,
blundering into palm trees in a clatter of quills.
See how his flesh feathers from his bones
in a triple mirage - the hundred-handed one.
He lifts into the buckled air
and hangs there, over the abyss
while the sun rat-tat-tats its Song of Songs
in the hanging gardens, this
fledged one, gliding in his element,
a crest of flames sprouting from his head.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Pascale Petit was born in Paris and lives in London. She spent the first part of her life as a sculptor, before deciding to concentrate on poetry. Her previous books have been awarded Book of the Year in The Observer, Books of the Year in the Times Literary Supplement and Independent, and have been shortlisted for the T.S. Eliot Prize and Wales Book of the Year. She has worked as Poetry Editor of Poetry London and tutors courses at Tate Modern and for The Poetry School. Her sixth book *Fauverie* will be published in 2014. <http://www.pascalepetit.co.uk>

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Born in Aleppo, Syria, in 1984, Lawand came to France with his family when he was ten. He has exhibited widely throughout Europe, as well as in Egypt in 2006 and Syria in 2007. He has also created and collaborated on art books with a number of renowned poets, most notably *Concerto for the 11th September 2001 BC* with the great Syrian poet Adonis. His work has also been published in France in contemporary poetry magazines such as N4728. He currently lives and works in Lille.

Effigies has been commissioned by The Mosaic Rooms, an A.M. Qattan Foundation project.
www.mosaicrooms.org

For further details, and to arrange interviews, contact Rosa Attwood at press@mosaicrooms.org or on + 44 207 370 9990.

Notes to Editors

- Available for interview: Pascale Petit and the artist Lawand.
- For further information about the exhibition *Lawand: Equinox - From Beirut to London* visit www.mosaicrooms.org/lawand/, for information on related events visit www.mosaicrooms.org/talks-events.
- The Mosaic Rooms, a leading independent arts space in west London, delivers a high quality, contemporary and progressive cultural programme from the Arab world and internationally. They are managed by the A.M. Qattan Foundation, a UK charity dedicated to the support of culture and education in Palestine and the Arab world. The Foundation's London office, headed by one of its trustees, Omar Al-Qattan, is responsible for the Mosaic Rooms' programme. The Rooms are part of the Foundation's Culture and Arts Programme. The Mosaic Rooms is situated on the corner of the Cromwell Road and Earl's Court Road in Kensington, London, a short walk from Earl's Court Underground Station and Exhibition Centre. For further information about The Mosaic Rooms and the A.M. Qattan Foundation visit www.mosaicrooms.org