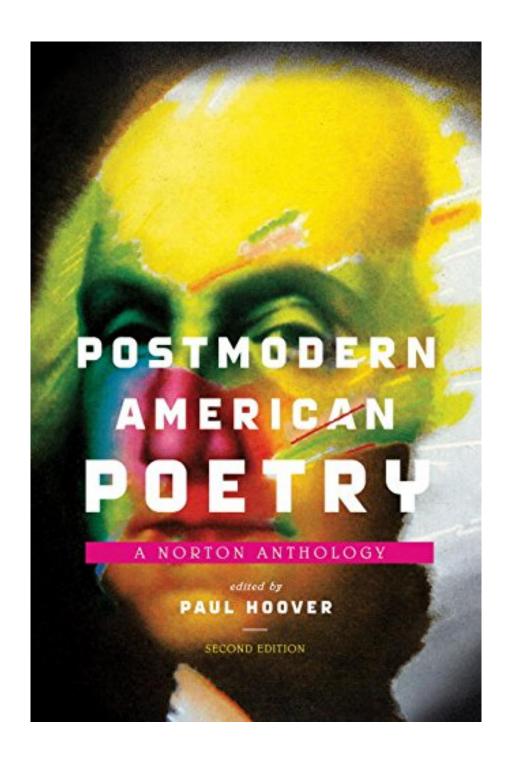


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From Publishers Weekly

Concentration and magnification make the best anthologies work, and this may be one of them. Concentration: the focus on a body of writing with a heritage, an era, or a style in common that tests shared visions and constraints. Magnification: an expanse that seems to widen and deepen as we are allowed to take a look at it, and then another look. For anyone carping at the idea of the postmodern or the avant-garde as wanly intellectual, fiercely separatist, beside the point, or even nonexistent, Hoover's large-scale collection of recent experimental American poetry (and a concluding selection of essays about it) should persuade that it's not. He brings together more than 100 writers from the 1950s and since--Olson, Duncan, O'Hara, Ginsberg, Corso, Dorn, Major, Ashbery, Guest--whose adventures with the language renew it for far more than a readymade membership. The fact that some of the poets are sine qua nons and others aren't simply leaves the whole tribe more interesting. There's almost no point in listing names, except to indicate breadth; the same could be said for the "schools" represented. For literary positions have a way easing from their own strictures and outgrowing acolytic expectation when the words themselves are richly transformed and reformed--as they are here. Hoover is the editor of New American Writing.

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- Fred Muratori, Cornell Univ. Lib., Ithaca, N.Y.

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A new edition of this groundbreaking anthology revisits postmodernism as a twenty-first-century movement.

Postmodern American Poetry: A Norton Anthology galvanized attention on its publication in 1994, making "the avant-garde accessible" (Chicago Tribune) and filling "an enormous gap in the publication annals of contemporary poetry" (Marjorie Perloff). Now, two decades later, Paul Hoover returns to suggest what postmodernism means in the twenty-first century. This revised and expanded edition features 114 poets, 557 poems, and 15 poetics essays, addressing important recent movements such as Newlipo, conceptual poetry, and Flarf. Bringing together foundational postmodern poets like Charles Olson, Denise Levertov, and Allen Ginsberg with new voices like Christian Bok, Kenneth Goldsmith, and Katie Degentesh, this edition of Postmodern American Poetry is the essential collection for a new generation of readers.

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32 of 38 people found the following review helpful.

one of the must-have anthologies

By adead_poet@hotmail.com

For anyone interested in postmodern poetry or for those who want to learn what postmodern poetry is, this is the anthology to have. It's loaded with some of the best poets: the gifted Robert Duncan, Ferlinghettis (one of the best of the beat poets), Bukowski (my first intro to him, and not a dissapointment), Levertov, Kenneth Koch (not his best poems, but still a good selection), the wonderful poetry of Frank O'Hara, Ginsberg, Robert Creely (and excellent selection), a selection from Ashbery so huge that i almost forgot i wasn't reading one of his books, the awesome Gary Snyder, Rothernberg's "Cokboy", Dave Trinidad, Paul Hoover, Wanda Coleman, Charles Olson, Kerouac, Philip Whalen, Corso, Amiri Baraka, Diane di Prima, Anne Waldman, and many others, including a very strong Chicago appearance towards the end.

The anthology starts with an essay by Hoover, which helps to clear up many questions about what postmodern poetry is and what many of the schools are. He concludes the anthology with a selection of essays on poetry.

13 of 15 people found the following review helpful.

Pretty strong over all

By M. Noack

I basically would like to comment on the two previous reviews, as this is a specifically oriented anthology -

toward modern/postmodern poetry - & does a great job as such. Obviously, with any anthology, personal taste will impact ones own judgement, but the anthology is two broad for everything to appeal to every(any?) one. The selections are strong, generally & the book is nearly 1000 pages. There is only so much space available to the editor, & one can hardly compile a "postmodern" anthology today & ignore FLARF, conceptual poetry etc. Some things need to be cut, & to his credit, Hoover cut himself. The jury is still out on the staying power of the FLARF & conceptual selection (though I think the "LANGUAGE" selections are well established & will hold up) but Hover can hardly pretend, in an honest anthology that these trends, for lack of a better word, don't exist. Harry Mathews would be nice, as nearly the only (possibly the only?) American member of the OUILOPO group, but it could be argued that his best writing is in his novels. Isn't it nice that Hoover has made so many updates that it is well worthwhile to own both books?

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

Must have for any library of literature

By X. Suzi

This is a second edition of Hoover's now-ought-to-be-seminal anthology. Anyone who has a personal library that includes modern literary aspects needs to consider this work as a foundation element

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