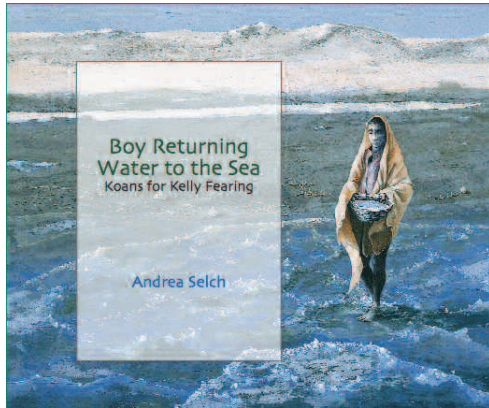


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Boy Returning Water to the Sea: Koans for Kelly Fearing

by Andrea Selch



ISBN-978-0-9790623-0-8  
40 pp., 16 color illus.

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In 2003, **Andrea Selch** was introduced to **William Kelly Fearing** and his art by her partner, Anita Mills, who had been mentored by Fearing when she was a U.T. Austin graduate student in the mid-1970s. Fearing's sixty-year retrospective, hosted by the University's Creative Research Laboratory and the Flatbed Press Galleries, had been held in the prior year and had been accompanied by the exhibition catalog, "The Mystical World of Kelly Fearing: A Sixty-Year Retrospective."

As Selch began to study the exhibition catalog, she was struck by the poetic nature of the titles Fearing assigned to his rich array of drawings, paintings, prints and collages. Fearing's titles as well as the paintings themselves, have been the inspiration for Selch's "Boy Returning Water to the Sea: Koans for Kelly Fearing." This new, full color book from Cockeyed Press of Chapel Hill, North Carolina, contains thirteen poems, paired with their namesake paintings, as well as brief biographies of both artists.

"As if by magic, the unforgettable poems in this chapbook lead us into the images the poet sees before her in the paintings of William Kelly Fearing. 'The Poet and Bird Before an Open Cave' concludes, 'through the cave another sky is visible.' Through her poems, Andrea Selch makes visible a world that only a poet in her most intuitive, visionary mode can create."

—Kathryn Stripling Byer,  
North Carolina Poet Laureate

"We are so pleased to be publishing this elegant chapbook by Andrea Selch. Her original inspiration—the titles of works in William Kelly Fearing's retrospective catalog, which seemed so much like poem-titles to her—has grown into a full-fledged engagement with the images themselves. Some poems are just gestures; others lyrical; still others, open-ended. By arranging them in chronological order, she offers a narrative on a life scale—elements of her biography and Fearing's sneak onto the surface like bits of paper in a single collage—nevertheless, each poem remains a striking word-picture."

—Bill Fick, Cockeyed Press

**Boy Returning Water to the Sea:  
Koans for Kelly Fearing** is available

from **Cockeyed Press:**

<http://cockeyedpress.com>

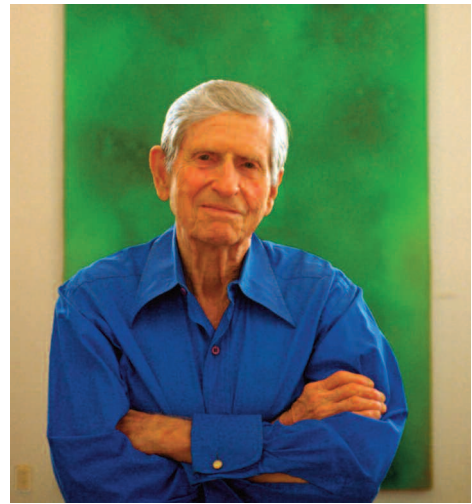
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**Andrea Selch** was born in New York City in 1964 and moved to North Carolina in 1983. She has an MFA from UNC-Greensboro, and a PhD from Duke University, where she taught creative writing from 1999 until 2003. Her poems have been published in *Calyx*, *Equinox*, *The Greensboro Review*, *Oyster Boy Review*, *Luna*, *The MacGuffin*, and *Prairie Schooner*. Her poetry chapbook, *Succory*, was published by Carolina Wren Press in 2000. Her full-length collection *Startling* was originally published by Turning Point Press in 2004, after placing in the 2003 Turning Point competition, and was reissued by Cockeyed Press in 2009. In 2001, she joined the board of Carolina Wren Press and is now its President and Executive Director. She lives in rural Hillsborough with her partner and their two children.

*Photo of Andrea Selch by Diane Amato.*



**William Kelly Fearing**, painter, printmaker and educator, was born in Arkansas in 1918. He received his BA from Louisiana Polytechnic Institute in 1941 and his MA from Teachers College, Columbia University, in 1950. He is Ashbel Smith Professor of Art Emeritus at the University of Texas, Austin, where he taught from 1947 until 1987.

A former member of the Fort Worth Circle, his work has been widely exhibited in galleries and institutions such as the El Paso Museum of Art, Gallery of Visual Arts of Louisiana Tech, Fort Worth Art Center, Witte Memorial Museum, Marion Koogler McNay Art Museum, Carnegie Institute, Pennsylvania Academy of Art, Houston Museum of Fine Arts, Dallas Museum of Fine Art, Denver Art Museum, and the Philbrook Art Center, among many others.

In 2002, the U.T. Department of Art and Art History presented a 60-year retrospective of his work, entitled *The Mystical World of Kelly Fearing*. That exhibit brought together paintings, drawings, prints and collages from public and private collections throughout the United States and also traveled to The University of Texas at Arlington and the Old Jail Art Museum in Albany, Texas.

In 2007, Fearing was the recipient of the E. William Doty Award, established in 1995 by the U.T. College of Fine Arts. It is the highest recognition given to individuals of distinction in their fields, and/or those who have demonstrated extraordinary interest in the college.

*Photo of Kelly Fearing by Rebecca McEntee,  
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