



# FINISHING LINE PRESS

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Contact: Leah Maines, Chapbook Series Editor

CAMBRIDGE, MA - MARCH 4, 2026 - Finishing Line Press announces the publication of *Blood Machine* by KB Kinkel, winner of the 2025 Open Chapbook Competition.

Kinkel's ekphrastic poems of witness, excavation, and extraction sift through artifacts of cultural memory, beginning with the literal and aesthetic detritus of 9/11. Not quite an elegy, and neither fully an archive, *Blood Machine* resists any one rhetorical mode for considering post-millennium artworks and documentation, asking readers to look again—closely and continuously—at a defining moment of twenty-first century art and violence.

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**Finishing Line Press**

**PO Box 1626**

**Georgetown, KY 40324**

**KB Kinkel** is a poet, writer, and teacher based in New England. His poems, essays, and reviews have appeared in *Tupelo Quarterly*, *Ninth Letter*, *Prelude*, *The Rumpus*, *Poetry Online*, and elsewhere. He holds an MFA in poetry from the Iowa Writers' Workshop, and currently teaches English and creative writing (and occasionally, bird-watching) at the Cambridge School of Weston. More of KB's work and projects can be found at [kbkinkel.com](http://kbkinkel.com).





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## PRESS RELEASE

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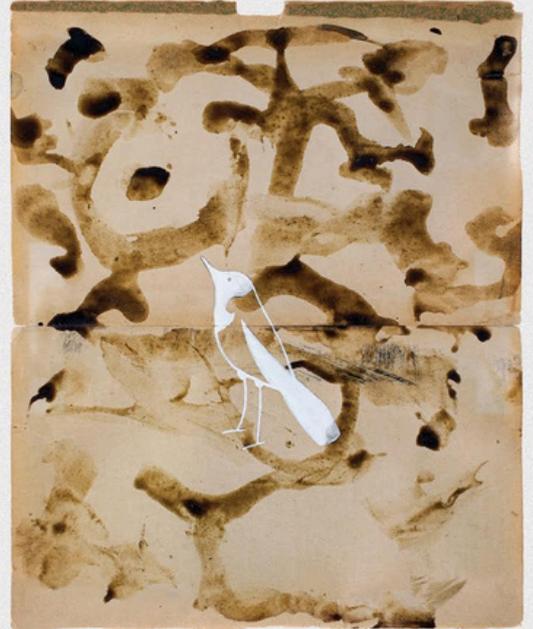
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## BLOOD MACHINE

KB KINKEL



Winner of the 2025 Open Chapbook Competition

"KB Kinkel's poems enact human dignity, never forgoing mystery. They invite a reader into the violence and grief of 9/11 without any journalistic explanation. Exploring fear and love in equal measure, these ekphrastic poems contemplate, transform, and renew not only works of art but also objects—handwritten notes—recovered from "the dust that settles into all things." In "Loss: Ambiguous," a moving list poem made up entirely of questions, the speaker asks "Has anyone tried to comfort you?" and also asks "Do you hear those crickets?": the tonal range here, as in so many of the poems—with their juxtapositions of high and low, mundane and cosmic, grieving and consoling—energizes a debut intent on reminding us that it is "impossible" to "return / to a previous world.""

—Catherine Barnett, author of *Solutions for the Problem of Bodies in Space* (Graywolf Press, 2024).