

OX

Visual Micropoems

RYAN RIDGE



Alternating Current Press
Boulder, Colorado

Ox
Ryan Ridge
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ADVANCE PRAISE

“In the beginning, there was OX. If not the animal, then the elemental circle and cross: our earliest typographical fusion of language and physical technology—and perhaps the stuff of civilization itself. After all, what would a wheel be without its spokes, and where would we be without either? In *Ox*, Ryan Ridge puts this storied rubber to the road and arrives by way of Aram Saroyan’s adventures in minimalism at some seriously delightful poems. From tic-tac-toe to Paul Bunyan’s bummed-out beast of burden, *Ox* takes us through the lifecycle of language—birth to death to resurrection—and proves that if the goal of poetry is to infuse every word with its atomic weight, then Ridge’s work here is downright nucleic.”

—Adam O. Davis,
author of *Index of Haunted Houses*

“*Ox* is concrete poetry as only Ryan Ridge could give us. Part Oulipian antic, part hero’s journey, these spare, inventive, wacky permutations are pure chef’s x.”

—Kristen Renee Miller,
translator of *Spawn*

“Using only two letters, Ryan Ridge demonstrates how the spatial dimension of poetry connects emotionally to readers with the same tenacity as rhythm, rhyme, and diction. Uh, that’s fucking *nuts*. Each poem feels as if it entered the world fully formed.”

—Jennifer L. Knoxoxoxoxox,
author of *Crushing It*

“On the page, Ryan Ridge is pure pleasure—a perpetual-motion machine of poems that you *see* rather than *read*. His new book is an unmuzzled ox that recalls the minimalist poetry of Aram Saroyan, freshly retooled for the 21st century. Recommended!”

—Mike Topp,
author of *29 Mini-Essays*

“Ryan Ridge’s *Ox* follows the same path paved by Aram Saroyan. However, instead of lightheaded, Ridge gives us a character named Ox, who, among other things, gets ghosted, dresses up for Halloween, and wins the big game. *Ox* is more proof that Ridge is one of the most inventive, playfully weird minds writing today.”

—Noah Falck,
author of *Exclusions*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|----|
| Birth of Ox | 15 |
| Mirrored Ox | 16 |
| Ox Box | 17 |
| Oxen | 18 |
| Ox Gets Chickenpox | 19 |
| Ox Box Set | 20 |
| Ox Porn | 21 |
| Ox Sex Soundtrack | 22 |
| Message from Ox | 23 |
| Xerox | 24 |
| Ox Kiss | 25 |
| Initials Carved in a Boxelder | 26 |
| Paradox | 27 |
| Ox Takes Up Boxing, Gets KO'd | 28 |
| Ox Bow Tie | 29 |
| X Marks the Ox | 30 |
| Ox on Ox | 31 |
| Ox Hug | 32 |
| Ox Stands on His Head | 33 |
| Ox on the Rox | 34 |
| Ox in the Tall Grass | 35 |
| Ox Balloon | 36 |
| Ox Joins the Herd | 37 |
| Ox Says Fuck It, Quits | 38 |
| Ox Gets Ghosted | 39 |
| The Oxbow Incident | 40 |

| | |
|---|----|
| Ox Dresses Up for Halloween | 41 |
| Butterscox | 42 |
| The Wizard of Ox | 43 |
| Ox's Favorite Year (Metal Edition) | 44 |
| Ox Wins Favorite of the Year (Medal Edition) | 45 |
| Ox's Favorite Band | 46 |
| Ox Plays a Games, Loses | 47 |
| Ox Designs a Game-Winning Touchdown | 48 |
| Sleeping Ox | 49 |
| Camouflage Ox | 50 |
| Ox Horns | 51 |
| Ox Covered in Clorox | 52 |
| Ox Pushes Himself (Gets a Degree from Oxford) | 53 |
| Ox Takes Up Acting, Moves to L.A. | 54 |
| Ox Sells Out, Gets Botox | 55 |
| Ox Gets Hooked on Prescription Drugs (OxyContin) | 56 |
| Ox Gets Doxed | 57 |
| Ox's FBI File | 58 |
| Ox on the Run | 59 |
| Death of Ox | 60 |
| Ox's Face at His Funeral | 61 |
| Ox Is Born Again | 62 |
| Detox | 63 |
| Ox Takes Himself Apart | 64 |
| Ox Transcends the Sorrows of This World | 65 |

“If anyone should ask the meaning of this,
Behold the lilies of the field and its fresh
sweet-scented verdure.”
—Shūbun (15th Century)

Birth of Ox

OX

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Mirrored Ox

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Ox Box

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Oxen

Ox x Ox

Ox Gets Chickenpox

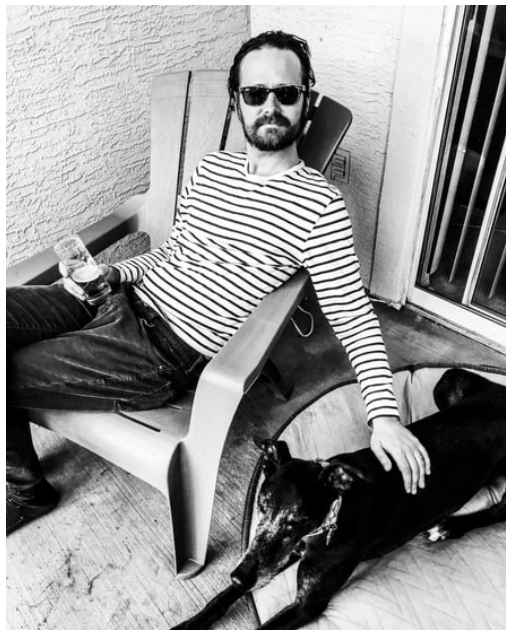
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Ox Box Set

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR



RYAN RIDGE is the author of four chapbooks as well as five books, including most recently the story collection, *New Bad News* (Sarabande Books, 2020).

He has received the Italo Calvino Prize in Fabulist Fiction, the Linda Bruckheimer Prize in Kentucky Literature, and the Kentucky Writers Fellowship for Innovative Writing from the Baltic Writing Residency. His work has been featured in *American Book Review*, *Denver Quarterly*, *Passages North*, *Post Road*, *Salt Hill*, *Santa Monica Review*, and *Southwest Review*, among other outlets.

A graduate of the University of Louisville and the MFA Programs in Writing at UC Irvine, he is an assistant professor at Weber State University in Ogden, Utah, where he codirects the Creative Writing Program. In addition to his work as a writer and teacher, he edits the literary magazine *Juked*. He lives in Salt Lake City with the writer Ashley Farmer and plays bass in the Snarlin' Yarns.



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