Poet Marie Howe
Always Worth Waiting For
By Elman + Cheek


Howe attended Sacred Heart Convent School and earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Windsor. She studied with Stanley Kunitz and received her M.F.A. in 1983. At the suggestion of an instructor in a writers' workshop, Howe devoted serious attention to writing poetry until she turned 30.


Howe was selected by Margaret Atwood to contribute an essay to Alain de Botton's The Art of人际关系 (2007). In January 2018, Howe was elected a Chancellor of the Academy of American Poets. Her honors include National Endowment for the Arts and Guggenheim fellowships.

In August, 2012 she was named the State Poet for New York. Howe is the editor of the anthology of poems made by poets who are HIV positive, RiskPoets (2012). Her most recent book, The Good Thief, was published in 2017.

Howe's latest book, What the Living Do, was shortlisted for the International Dylan Thomas Prize. Her poems have been translated into many languages, and her work is widely anthologized, including in The Best American Poetry and The Best American Poetry of the Century (1900-2000). She is also the co-editor of a collection of essays, letters, and stories entitled In the Company of My Solitude: American Writing from the AIDS Pandemic (1997); and My Solitude: American Writing from the AIDS Pandemic (1994). Her poems have appeared in The New Yorker, The Atlantic, Poetry, Agni, Ploughshares, and The Partisan Review, among others.

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[Video images and captions related to the content are included here.]

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OPEN TO CHANGE — FLEXIBILITY: 0:45 sec.

Marie Howe reads: “Magdalene at the Theopoetics Conference.”