

Daniel Tobin Expanded Bio

Born in Brooklyn, New York, a citizen of both America and Ireland, Daniel Tobin is the author of eight books of poems. *Where the World is Made* (1999), his first, won the Katherine Bakeless Nason Prize. The poems of *Double Life* (2004), which followed, range as one reviewer noted “form haunting meditations on the paintings of Hieronymus Bosch to an astonishing polyphonic sequence based on the life of Bartolome de Las Casas,” and “transport us to worlds both like and unlike our own.” His third book of poems, *The Narrows* (2005), finalist for the Foreword Book Prize, is nothing less than a mural in verse whose many panels form a single long poem with ties to Walt Whitman’s Crossing Brooklyn Ferry, and Hart Crane’s “The Bridge.” The book blends traditional Irish forms with a uniquely American vernacular. *The Antioch Review* called *Second Things*, his fourth, “a collection of impressive power by a poet fast becoming one of his generation’s finest.” *Belated Heavens* (2010), his fifth, won the Massachusetts Book Award in Poetry. *The Net* (2014) followed to wide praise for its lyric and narrative range and formal achievement. *From Nothing* (2016) is a book-length poem on the life of Belgian physicist and priest, Georges Lemaître, “the father of the Big Bang.” This work, notable for its ambition, brings together the poet’s obsessions with religion, science, and history in a polyphonic exploration of one man’s exemplary life across the cataclysmic span of the first half of the twentieth century. *Blood Labors*, published in 2018, was named a Best Poetry Book of the Year by *The New York Times* and the *Washington Independent Review of Books*. Tobin’s poems and translations have appeared in hundreds of journals and more than fifty anthologies, and has read from his work and lectured widely across the United States and in Europe. *The Mansions*, his trilogy of three book-length poems—“From Nothing,” “This Broken Symmetry,” and “At the Grave of Teilhard de Chardin”—will be out in 2023.

In addition to his books of poems, Daniel has published many essays on modern and contemporary poetry in many of the foremost literary and critical journals on both sides of the Atlantic. His first full-length critical study, *Passage to the Center: Imagination and the Sacred in the Poetry of Seamus Heaney* (1999) is one of the foremost works on the Irish Nobel laureate’s poetry and prose. *Modern Language Review* declared that any future writing on the topic of Irish American poetry “will have to reckon with” Tobin’s second full-length critical study, *Awake in America* (2011). As editor, Daniel has produced *The Book of Irish American Poetry from the Eighteenth Century to the Present* (2007), a work regarded essential in “what amounts to a canon for previously unacknowledged literature” and “the invention of a whole new field.” His editorial work also includes *Poet’s Work, Poet’s Play: Essays on the Practice and the Art* (with Pimone Triplett, 2007), and *Light in Hand: The Selected Early Poems and Lola Ridge* (2007), which helped to re-establish this neglected but important woman poet as a figure deserving of serious literary attention. Little Island Press, now an imprint of Carcanet, published *To the Many: The Collected Early Poems of Lola Ridge* in 2018. His most recent book of essays, *On Serious Earth: Poetry and Transcendence*, appeared from Orison Books in 2019.

His work's list of awards includes the "The Discovery/The Nation Award," The Robert Penn Warren Award, the Robert Frost Fellowship, the Katherine Bakeless Nason Prize, the Julia Ward Howe Award, the Meringoff Award in Poetry from the Association of Literary Scholars, Critics, and Writers, as well as fellowships for his scholarship from the Irish American Cultural Institute and for his poetry from the National Endowment for the Arts and the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation.