

UNDERSEA

by RACHEL L. CARSON

PROSPECTUS



N A W A K U M



NAWAKUM PRESS SANTA ROSA 2010

Announcing a limited first edition from Nawakum Press:

Undersea by Rachel L. Carson

ILLUSTRATED BY *Dugald Stermer*

INTRODUCTION BY *Linda Lear*

AFTERWORD BY *Julia Whitty*



The September issue of *The Atlantic Monthly* for 1937 included an essay titled simply, “Undersea,” by R. L. Carson. Those who read it were uniformly impressed with its lyric quality and by the scientific understanding of its author. Later, the literary world would remember this essay as the unassuming debut of one of the greatest narrative writers and ecologists of the 20th century, Rachel Carson.

Rachel Carson first began writing stories for publication at the age of ten. She is best known for her last book to be published while she was alive, the pioneering environmental work *Silent Spring*. Although a scientist by training, Rachel loved to write, especially about the sea and coastline. It was from “Undersea,” her first work to reach national attention, that she later admitted, “everything else followed.”

It was Carson’s particular genius that she does not *tell* us what goes on undersea, rather she *shows* us—inviting us to join her as guide. Seeing through an underwater eye, each level of the sea is apprehended scientifically, yet with such wonder and delicate delight that the beauty and mystery of the underwater world she has discovered is fully accessible. Carson’s goal was not mere identification of the sea’s inhabitants, but the apprehension of the unity of life. Individual creatures come and go, but lives lived in water partake of the eternal.

The Nawakum Press edition of “Undersea” pays tribute to Rachel Carson’s genius for opening our eyes to nature, and is richly brought to life by the remarkable work of illustrator Dugald Stermer. With keen insights added by her biographer Linda Lear, and brought into the present moment by eco-naturalist Julia Whitty, this edition stands uniquely alone in testament to a true American visionary.

ABOUT THIS EDITION

The book is 28 pages which measure 9 ½ by 13 inches. San Francisco artist Dugald Stermer has been commissioned by the Press to illustrate the text with graphite and watercolor illustrations. They are digitally reproduced and printed using archival inks on an Epson Stylus Pro 11880 by Digital Grange in Petaluma, California. The illustrations are printed on the edition paper, which is Hahnemühle Biblio. The text has been set in Granjon and Burgues Script typefaces and letterpress printed from photopolymer plates by Norman Clayton of Classic Letterpress in Oakland, California.

The book is bound with Carson Crackle, a handmade paper designed by Bridget O'Malley at Cave Papers in Minneapolis, Minnesota, especially for the edition. The papers are pasted over archival boards, quarter-bound in Italian book cloth. The tipped folio binding, slipcases, and clamshell boxes were produced by John DeMerritt in Emeryville, California. Two versions of the book will be available.

DELUXE VERSION

Twenty copies quarter-bound in blue goatskin and Cave Paper over archival boards. The book is accompanied by one additional hand-colored Stermer print that is numbered, signed by the artist, and set in a paper chemise. The book and the print are housed in a clamshell box of blue Japanese book cloth over archival boards. Each book is gold stamped on the spine, numbered and signed by the artist. Ten additional copies are reserved for the Press. \$840.00

SLIPCASSED VERSION

Eighty copies only are available for sale with the Cave Paper covers over archival boards and quarter-bound with silver-stamped, black Italian book cloth. Each book is housed in a slipcase with Italian book cloth over archival boards, numbered, and signed by the artist. \$425.00.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Celebrated illustrator Dugald Stermer first worked as a design director for studios in Los Angeles and Houston and at barely thirty years old served as Art Director for the groundbreaking *Ramparts* magazine from 1964-1971. He later began work as a freelance illustrator, designed the official medals for the 1984 Olympic Games, illustrated a wildlife series for *The Los Angeles Times*, and worked on campaigns for many Fortune 500 companies.

Stermer has created editorial illustrations for, among others, *Time*, *Esquire*, *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *GQ*, and *Rolling Stone*. He also has authored a number of books including *Vanishing Creatures*, *Vanishing Flora*, and *Birds & Bees*. His illustrations are exquisite, stunningly detailed sketches and watercolors, often including calligraphic embellishments.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR – INTRODUCTION

Linda Lear is an environmental historian and biographer, author of the prize-winning *Rachel Carson: Witness for Nature*, a definitive portrait of the woman who defined the way humans look at their place in nature. She is editor of *Lost Woods: The Discovered Writing of Rachel Carson*, an anthology of Rachel Carson's little known and unpublished writing—set in the context of her life. She is also author of *Beatrix Potter: A Life in Nature*.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR – AFTERWORD

Julia Whitty is a writer, former underwater documentary filmmaker, and the author of the recently published *Deep Blue Home: An Intimate Ecology of Our Wild Ocean*, and of *The Fragile Edge*, a book on coral reefs, winner of a PEN USA Literary Award, the John Burroughs Medal, and the Kiriya Prize. Whitty's prose is supple and scientifically informed, her work described as the product of a scientist's mind, a sociologist's eye, a Zen Buddhist's soul, and a poet's heart.

THE NAWAKUM PRESS

3731 Deauville Place

Santa Rosa, California 95403

david@nawakumpress.com

www.nawakumpress.com