Featured Poet: Hailey Leithauser

Hailey Leithauser is the author of *Swoop*, (Graywolf 2013) which won the Poetry Foundation’s Emily Dickinson First Book Award, the Towson Prize for Literature and was a finalist for the Kate Tufts Award. Her work appears widely in journals and anthologies such as *The Antioch Review, The Gettysburg Review, Poetry, The Southwest Review, The Yale Review,* and three editions of *Best American Poetry.*

At the conference, Leithauser will lead a one-day workshop on *(In)Formal Inventions.*

Description: In this workshop we will discuss the various reasons for our attraction to form and the headaches and hallelujahs inherent in creating new forms or in personalizing established forms to our own individual rhythms, meter and music. We will look at historic nonce poems such as Hopkins’ curtal sonnets and Moore’s syllabics as well as recent examples from contemporary poets. Participants are encouraged to bring in their own inventions for excoriation and praise.

Below is one of Leithauser’s poems:

**Poetry**

Dump-junked jalopy, one-eyed, three-legged dog,

mud slumbering hog
wallowing slowly,

tight right rubbery
boot in long snow-slog,

a din of tin keys,
blind mumbletypeg,
huge hop of small flea,
land crab with sea-leg,

sheep bleat lost in fog,
gas passed at high tea,

grand club-foot leapfrog,
goat gone up a tree.