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"[Reading *A Fixed, Formal Arrangement*] I was reminded of Woolf, of Stein, of Diane Williams. I jotted these names: Renee Gladman, Thalia Field, Pamela Lu. A tradition of women writing. Of experimental prose. Or maybe Ben Marcus, okay, or Robbe-Grillet. But. None of these references felt exactly right."

— Danielle Dutton, author of *Attempts at a Life*

A Fixed, Formal Arrangement

Prose by Allison Carter

Back Cover Art by Susan Simpson and Ken Ehrlich

Introduction by Danielle Dutton

Published by Les Figs Press

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In *A Fixed, Formal Arrangement* Carter uses the short prose form to render the liminal space of between-ness. What exactly is "spare" time? Is a comma as servile as they say? Is a garage located inside or outside? What is the world, and why/how does it exist around you? These are the best questions of literature, and Carter's short, serial pieces are brilliantly precise and heart-achingly poignant in their strange explorations.

A Fixed, Formal Arrangement is published as part of the TrenchArt: Tracer Series, with an Introduction by Danielle Dutton and collaborative visual art by Ken Ehrlich and Susan Simpson. TrenchArt is an annual series of new literature, selected and edited to create a textual conversation between some of the most dynamic and exciting writing today—and tomorrow.

"Allison Carter relinquishes all negotiable capital, all legitimate emotions, all historical certainties. She is trending, instead, toward the hell-that-won't-be-denied, itself a slippery slope of desire, a here that won't congeal, the outside that won't stay out. Identity is not premeditated – it's worn incompletely and it never fits, nor stays in place. It has no history and no forecast. [...] Let your self go and read this book. Be disjointed. Or find your self joined. Twist who's voicing and who's listening: 'The space around me is undergoing an ultimate kind of re coherence. . . .'"

—Diane Ward, author of *When You Awake*

Allison Carter is a writer and designer based in Los Angeles. Selected work has appeared in *Word For/Word*, *Combatives*, *P-Queue*, *5_Trope*, *Fence* and other journals. She is the author of the chapbook *Shadows are Weather* (Horse Less Press), and co-editor of *P S Books*. She currently teaches at California Institute for the Arts.