

# LES FIGURES PRESS

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## new/s release

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In transplanting her painterly European sensibility into an American poetic context, Alta Ifland creates and redreams the hauntingly surreal emotional landscapes of dislocation, desolate distances, and Redonesque disjuncture from which she shapes these ever-shifting, mad-and-mythic excursions—in voices angry, awed, childlike, sardonic, she startles and disturbs, charms and exalts.

– Wanda Coleman, poet

## ***Voice of Ice (Voice de Glace)***

Poetry by Alta Ifland

Cover Art by Danielle Adair

Introduction by Gary Young

Published by Les Figs Press

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***Voice of Ice*** is a series of fabled prose poems about the journeyed self outside of one's native land and away from one's native tongue. Eastern European poet Alta Ifland writes first in French, then translates her work into English, a process which sometimes returns her to the original French for further refinements. Published in a bi-lingual, French/English edition, Ifland repeatedly returns to the remembered images of her unnamed homeland, creating, what poet Gary Young describes in the Introduction, "a brilliant collection of prose poems document[ing] the quest for a coherent self, an authentic identity born out of the chaos of language and history."

There is a familiar strangeness at the heart of Alta Ifland's ***Voice of Ice***: a bland hotel room becomes, in its "geometric clarity," a shelter from chaos; the rain turns to voices, hair, fingers, "red, coppery tongues" of fire; the Pacific light becomes a termite "burrowing deeper and deeper into silence." Ifland's poems take us into "the depths of all things rhymed," where the known world becomes unknowable, and we greet it, emigrants on the border of a new language. With every page, Ifland invites us to cross with her "the threshold from one absence into another," swept away by stories fabulous in every sense of the word.

– Terry Ehret, author of *Lost Body* and *Translations from the Human Language*

**Alta Ifland** was born in Eastern Europe, studied literature and philosophy in France, and currently lives in California. *Voice of Ice* is her first book of poetry.

**TRENCHART** is an annual subscription series of innovative literature published by Les Figs Press. The TRENCHART Parapet Series (2007/08) includes books by Stephanie Taylor, Stan Apps, Alta Ifland, and Axel Thormählen, and visual work by Danielle Adair. Individual TRENCHART titles are available for \$15 (US) from Small Press Distribution ([www.sbdbooks.org](http://www.sbdbooks.org)). The complete TRENCHART subscription (5 books) is available from Les Figs for \$60 (US).