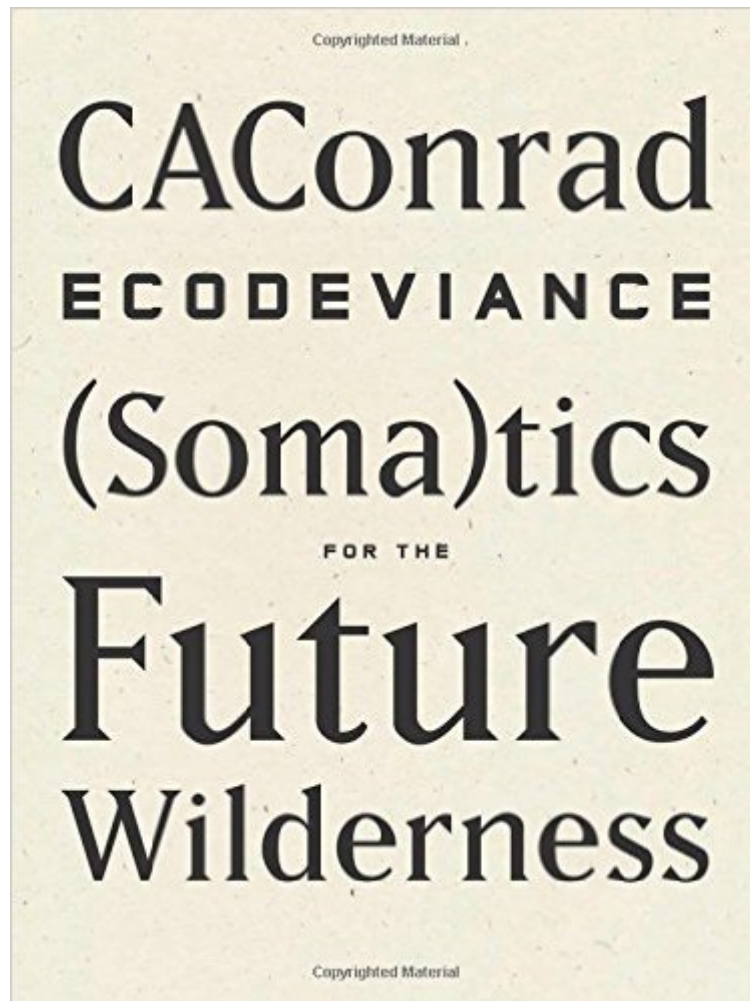


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# ECODEVIANCE: (Soma)tics For The Future Wilderness



## Synopsis

Listed in The Boston Globe's Best Poetry Books of 2014  
Finalist for the Lambda Literary Award in Gay Poetry  
Winner of The Believer Poetry Award  
"The (Soma)tic Exercises are innovative and crucial to our art form. . . . Conrad must be one of the most original practitioners of poetry forging new territory."  
"The Rumpus"  
"There was a time some of us believed poetry and poets could save the world; CA Conrad never stopped believing it."  
"The Huffington Post"  
From "M.I.A. ESCALATOR":  
The ultrasound machine gives the parents the ability to talk to the unborn by their gender, taking the intersexed nine-month conversation away from the child. The opportunities limit us in our new world. Encourage parents to not know, encourage parents to allow anticipation on either end. Escalators are a nice ride, slowly rising and falling, writing while riding, notes for the poem, meeting new people at either end, "Excuse me, EXCUSE ME. . . ." My escalator notes became a poem.  
CA Conrad's ECODEVIANCE contains twenty-three new (Soma)tic writing exercises and their resulting poems, in which he pushes his political and ecological efforts even further. These exercises, unorthodox steps in the writing process, work to break the reader and writer out of the quotidian and into a more politically and physically aware present. In performing these rituals, CA Conrad looks through a sharper lens and confirms the necessity of poetry and politics.  
CA Conrad is the author of A Beautiful Marsupial Afternoon (Wave Books, 2012) and The Book of Frank (Wave Books, 2010/Chax Press, 2009), as well as several other books of poetry and essays. A 2014 Lannan Fellow, a 2013 MacDowell Fellow, and a 2011 Pew Fellow, he also conducts workshops on (Soma)tic poetry and Ecopoetics.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars See all reviews (7 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

Whenever I read CA Conrad, whose poems I admire hugely, I end up asking, "Who else is taking these kinds of risks?" I read a lot of poetry. I seem to be one of nine adults left on the planet who still subscribe to and read literary magazines. Most of the poems I read just seem so careful, so eager to flash knowledge and earn credentials. Not bad poems, not bad at all, just semi-dehydrated. Impeccable and careful poems suitable for publishing in a tasteful university press volume entitled, Poems For Tenure. Then there's CA Conrad. In Ecodeviance he describes an exercise wherein he approached men in suits on lunch break in Philadelphia and asked them, "Excuse me sir, on a scale from 1 to 5, 1 being thin and creamy, and 5 being cottage cheese, how do you rate your semen?" Conrad is unafraid to query businessmen, minerals or ghosts; the results are often spectacular. As well as being gorgeous and full of surprises, CA Conrad's poems are marked by a willingness to take real risks and make respectable people uncomfortable. Yes, please! I want to read more poets like that! How can we go on primly celebrating beauty in our rarefied salons and not be pissed off by the poisoning of the natural world and the murder of innocent people? Real love does not shy away from fury. Neither do these poems. The poems in Ecodeviance are the results of rituals created by CA Conrad called (Soma)tics, "ritualized structures where being anything but present was next to impossible." The rituals serve as the source for a body of notes that then become the basis of a poem. Each poem or set of poems in the book is presented with its ritual of origin.

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