



# The Art of Recklessness: Poetry as Assertive Force and Contradiction

By Dean Young

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Dean Young

In *The Art of Recklessness*, Dean Young's sprawling and subversive first book of prose on poetry, imagination swerves into primitivism and surrealism and finally toward empathy. How can recklessness guide the poet, the artist, and the reader into art, and how can it excite in us a sort of wild receptivity, beyond craft? "Poetry is not a discipline," Young writes. "It is a hunger, a revolt, a drive, a mash note, a fright, a tantrum, a grief, a hoax, a debacle, an application, an affect . . ."

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### Editorial Review

#### About the Author

**DEAN YOUNG** is the author of nine collections of poetry, including *Primitive Mentor*, *Embryoyo*, and *Elegy on Toy Piano*, which was a finalist for the 2005 Pulitzer Prize. He teaches at the University of Texas, Austin.

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