

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2010 Texas Poet Laureate Karla K. Morton Collaborates with 2005 Texas Poet Laureate Alan Birkelbach to Release No End of Vision

Morton's Photographs Combined with Birkelbach's Poetry Blend Two Art Forms to Create "No End of Vision: Texas as Seen by Two Laureates"

Denton, TX – May 24, 2011 – Karla K. Morton, the 2010 Texas Poet Laureate, and Alan Birkelbach, the 2005 Texas Poet Laureate, today announced the release of No End of Vision: Texas as Seen by Two Laureates. The book is a collaboration that combines Ms. Morton's black and white photography with poetry written by Mr. Birkelbach that was inspired by Morton's photos.

Well-known for her poetry, Ms. Morton is also an avid photographer and has had several showings of her black and white photography across Texas.

"I'm so passionate about art, and when given the chance to collaborate, especially with someone as talented as Alan Birkelbach, I jump at the opportunity," said 2010 Texas Poet Laureate Karla K. Morton. "Alan's words breathe extra hues into each picture and take on a life of their own."

"A year or two ago, Karla shared a few of her Texas landscape photos with me," said 2005 Texas Poet Laureate Alan Birkelbach. "They spoke to me, inspiring me to capture their essence in poetry. I asked her to send me more, and I continued to write. Before we knew it, we had a book on our hands."

Richard Sale, editor of The Tribolite Press, writes of No End of Vision, "Karla K. Morton's photographs are as sharp-edged as some of the tree branches and animal bones they depict. Each of Alan Birkelbach's poems takes its cue from a Morton picture. This combination of photograph-and-poem is highly satisfying. The two art forms are a perfect fit."

State Photographer of Texas, Wyman Meinzer, calls the book "a collection of poetry and images that are subtly but inextricably connected. The book is well done and a fascinating read!"

Author H. Palmer Hall writes of the collection, "Photos and poems speak to each other and to us not just about the landscapes of Texas, but about ways of seeing beauty in the familiar and about what art is. This collection is a love letter to Texas from two exceptionally talented poets."

Published by [Ink Brush Press](#), No End of Vision is available for purchase at Amazon.com and at local bookstores across Texas.

About Karla K. Morton

Karla K. Morton, the 2010 Texas Poet Laureate, is a celebrated poet, author and speaker. A Betsy Colquitt Award Winner, a two-time Indie National Book Award Winner, a Councilor-at-Large for the Poetry Society of Texas and a member of the esteemed Texas Institute of Letters, she has been widely published in literary journals and is the author of six books of poetry: *Wee Cowrin' Timorous Beastie* (a 17th Century Scottish epic book/CD created in collaboration with award-winning composer Howard Baer); *Becoming Superman* (Rogers Publishing/Wheeler Press), *Redefining Beauty*, a journey through cancer diagnosis, chemo, radiation and recovery (Dos Gatos Press); *Stirring Goldfish*, a Sufi poetry book, *Names We've Never Known* (Texas Review Press) and *Karla K. Morton: New and Selected Poems* (TCU Press). Her latest book, *No End of Vision: Texas as Seen by Two Laureates* features Ms. Morton's black and white photography and poetry written by 2005 Texas Poet Laureate Alan Birkelbach and inspired by her photos. Described as "one of the most adventurous voices in American poetry," she has been featured on Good Morning Texas, NPR, ABC News, CBS News and in countless newspapers, blogs and magazines. She has also been featured on The Art of Living Gallery, a national program on Veria TV, and presents at conventions, conferences, bookstores, universities, festivals and schools. An avid photographer, Morton has also had several showings of her black and white artwork, and she loves to mix poetry with other art forms. Morton was born in Fort Worth, holds a Journalism degree from Texas A&M University and currently resides in Denton, Texas, with her children and husband. For more information, please visit www.kkmorton.com or www.facebook.com/karlakmorton.

About Alan Birkelbach

Alan Birkelbach, the 2005 Texas Poet Laureate, has spoken at schools, universities and bookstores across the state of Texas. Winner of the 2010 North Texas Book Festival Award, two-time presenter at the Texas Book Festival, and Spur, Wrangler, Pushcart, and TIL Children's Book award nominee, he is the author of nine books of poetry: *Bone Song* (Counterpoint Publishing); *Weighed in the Balances* (Plain View Press); *No Boundaries* (Eakin Press); *Translating the Prairie* (City of Plano); *New and Selected Works* (TCU Press); *Smurglets are Everywhere*, a children's poetry book (TCU Press); *Rogue Waves* (Texas Review Press); *The Thread* (Eakin Press); and *No End of Vision*, a collaboration with the 2010 Texas Poet Laureate Karla K. Morton. In addition, Mr. Birkelbach has also acted as the editor for the forthcoming volume *Dark Inspiration: Selected Poetry of Robert E. Howard*. Mr. Birkelbach's work has appeared in several well-respected journals and anthologies including *Texas in Poetry*, *Borderlands*, *Texas Review*, *Concho River Review*, and *San Pedro River Review*. Mr. Birkelbach holds a B.A. in English from the University of North Texas and currently lives in Plano, Texas. For more information, please visit his website at alanbirkelbach.com or contact him on Facebook.

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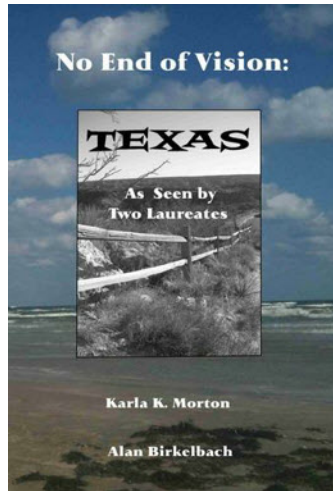
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No End of Vision: Texas As Seen by Two Laureates **REVIEWS**

Karla K. Morton's photographs are as sharp-edged as some of the tree branches and animal bones they depict. They are carefully composed and at the same time luminous. Her country buildings convey a touching nostalgia. And many of her landscapes capture the elegance and nobility of the natural world. Each of Alan Birkelbach's poems takes its cue from a Morton picture, stays true to the subject, then quickly-magically-moves into its own terrain, a region where image turns into memory and meditation. This combination of photograph-and-poem is highly satisfying. The two art forms are a perfect fit.

Richard Sale, Editor
The Trilobite Press

"No End of Vision is a collection of poetry and images that are subtly but inextricably connected. The book is well done and is a fascinating read!"

Wyman Meinzer
State Photographer of Texas

"See how art gives us fresh perspectives on what we already know, reminds us of what's really important, of what should persist in our lives. This collection is a love letter to Texas from two exceptionally talented poets."

H. Palmer Hall
Author of Foreign and Domestic and Into the Thicket

Media Coverage, Book Presentations & Traveling Museum Exhibit

Austin Art Blogs

June, 2011 – Feature story on Austin Arts Blog, Texas Commission on the Arts: Art on Art
“Collaborative Poets Laureate” – blog story about release of No End of Vision



June, 2011 – Denton Record Chronicle, Briefly in the Arts

Release of No End of Vision covered in Arts Column (first news brief featured in the column)

Langdon Review Weekend

September, 2011 - Langdon Literary Weekend, at Tarleton State University's Langdon Center

Plenary Session presented by Alan Birkelbach - "No End of Vision: Texas as Seen by Two Poets Laureate"



January, 2012 – Escape to Create – Seaside, Florida

Karla K. Morton was a writer-in-residence during the month of January and presented, performed readings and sold books at local bookstores, community gatherings and schools



February, 2012 - University of North Texas Emeritus College, Center for Achievement and Lifelong Learning

Karla and Alan invited as guests professors and taught the entire class period

Feedback from students included:

“ We are so very fortunate to have these two in our immediate area. I look forward to any future presentation.”

“Excellent and inspiring.”

“Continually creative and wonderful poetry and photography.”

BOLIVAR STREET GALLERY
EST. 2011

May 20 – June 20, 2012 – Exhibit at Bolivar Street Gallery in Sanger, Texas

No End of Vision Traveling Museum Exhibit

Will kick off with guest presentation by Karla and Alan

TRAVELING MUSEUM EXHIBIT

No End of Vision: Texas As Seen by Two Laureates

Traveling Exhibit Overview

Inspired by the book, a collaboration between 2010 Texas Poet Laureate karla k. morton and 2005 Texas Poet Laureate Alan Birkelbach, the **Museum Exhibit** titled *No End of Vision: Texas as Seen by Two Laureates*, is a unique, ekphrastic effort combining black and white photos from Ms. Morton's portfolio with poems (inspired by her photos) from Mr. Birkelbach. The collection is art and poetry about Texas, meant to be seen and enjoyed by Texans!

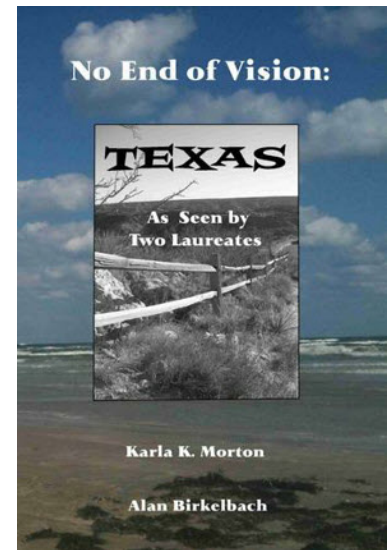


Exhibit Specifications

- Self-guiding exhibit
- Up to 20 black and white photos by karla k. morton, matted under glass with black frames
- Photos vary in size from 12 x 17 up to 29x32
- Up to 20 corresponding poems, written by Alan Birkelbach
- Maximum space of 40 panels
- Length of time for exhibit – varies based on museum's needs and traveling exhibit's schedule
- Design layout and shipping/ packing instructions will be supplied

Additional Exhibit Details

- Ms. Morton and Mr. Birkelbach are available for the Opening to interact and share their personal narratives.
- Exhibit designed for both adults and children to enjoy
- Self-guided exhibit includes educational prompts that inspire kids and adults to create their own poetry.
- If space permits, children could then display newly created poems next to the photos that intrigued them - Art Inspiring Art!
- FIRST EXHIBIT booked for May 20 – June 20, 2012 at Bolivar Street Gallery in Sanger, Texas



About the Artists & Words of Praise



About Karla K. Morton

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Review. Mr. Birkelbach holds a B.A. in English from the University of North Texas and currently lives in Plano, Texas. For more information, please visit his website at alanbirkelbach.com or contact him on Facebook.

Words of Praise for Karla & Alan

"Both older patrons and college students found Karla's dramatic reading of her own poetry entertaining, touching their experiences, and sometimes jarring at a recent Museum reading outdoors. To some, she redefined what a poem is, sweeping it off the page and giving the words life."

~ Bettye Cook, Ed. D., Museum Educator – Layland Museum

"Birkelbach writes of the Texas landscape and its people with conversational ease, making his vivid descriptions shimmer through each poem. He balances the ordinary and the phenomenal, the factual and the suppositional, the temporal and the eternal in poems remarkable for their depth of insight."

~ TCU Press