

We are currently closed to unsolicited submissions and queries. If we ask for a submission, please first send a query.

## Guidelines for Writing a Query for Ink Brush Press

We will consider

Nonfiction: art, biography, books of regional interest for East Texas, business, cook books, creative nonfiction, economics, educational, health, histories, how-to, investing, juvenile, memoir, profiles, psychology, self help, travel, true crime, young adult

Fiction: historical, juvenile, literary, mainstream short stories, young adult. We will consider high-quality genre fiction (mystery, science fiction, fantasy, romance, western)

Poetry: pay attention to craft, polish, sound, poetic devices, and use of imagery. While we will consider both traditional and free verse, we are not interested in seeing mere prose broken into lines.

Drama: plays for the stage. At this time we are not considering screen plays.

### Query

Do not send a complete manuscript unless we request it. To accept a book for publication we must be convinced that

1. You have completed the manuscript, revised appropriately, and have a clean, carefully proofread manuscript on hand. We will under special circumstances consider works in progress.

2. It has not been previously published or self published or published on the world wide web. We will, however, consider books containing chapters, stories, or poems that have been published in journals.

3. It is a book that will sell enough copies to  
pay for publication costs  
make some profit for the press  
earn some royalties for the writer

Writers must therefore

Send us a carefully constructed query describing your best, completed and unpublished book  
Convince us that you will take an active part in promoting your book

A query must have four parts:

1. A brief statement about your publishing history or an explanation of your qualifications for writing your book
2. A description of the book: do not exceed 300 words
3. A sample of writing (see genre guidelines below for definitions of sample)
4. A statement of how you will promote the book once it is in print. This must contain specifics, not mere generalities. Instead of saying, "I will give readings," give information on when and where. Instead of saying "I will schedule book signings," name the specific bookstores, libraries, etc you will contact in promoting your book. Instead of stating, "I will promote my book on the web," give the specific sites you will use for such promotion. Include a list (with editor's names and mailing addresses) of at least five publications (or active literary blogs that review books) to which we can send review copies. These should be publications that will likely review your book for audiences who might order the book. Also give your best and most accurate guess as to how many copies you could distribute within the first 12 months after publication.

Keep in mind that while our goal is to publish outstanding books, we must generate sales to stay in the business of publishing, and that as a small press we have limited ways to promote your book. We must have you as a partner in finding readers for your work.

## Genre Guidelines for Samples of Writing

Nonfiction: the opening 800 to 1000 words and a table of contents

Fiction: novel—the opening 800 to 1000 words and a 500-word summary; story collection—The opening 800 to 1000 words of one of your short stories and the opening two sentences for each of the remaining stories.

Drama: a list of characters, the opening 800 to 1000 words of dialog and a 500 word summary

Poetry: ten poems

## How to submit the query

Save your query as a Word, RTF, or WordPerfect file, then attach it to an email. Send the email to the email address we give you when we ask for the query.

We do not accept paper queries. We will delete without answering any uninvited query, and we apologize for imposing such draconian measures.

Ours is a small press staffed entirely by volunteers, and none of us draws a salary of any sort from Ink Brush Press. An open submission policy would bring us such huge numbers of manuscripts that we would have to spend most of our time reading submissions instead of publishing books.

So where do we find manuscripts? All the staff members of IBP are active readers and attend literary conferences. We find talented writers who publish in literary journals and who make presentations in conferences for writers and professional conferences that include sections for creative presentations. Some (but certainly not all) of the journals we read and conferences we attend are:

[www.amarillobay.org](http://www.amarillobay.org)

*Concho River Review*

*descant* (from TCU Press)

*Writing Texas*

The Langdon Weekend

Southwest Popular Culture Association

National Popular Culture Association

Conference of College Teachers of English

The Menil Book Festival (Houston)

The Texas Book Festival (Austin)

While we are located in Texas and have most of our personal connections in the Southwest, we publish books by writers from all over the United States.