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Contact: Two Sylvias Press (twosylviaspress@gmail.com)

Two Sylvias Press Publishes New Edition of Cecilia Woloch's *Tsigan: The Gypsy Poem*

LOS ANGELES—Two Sylvias Press is pleased to announce the publication of Cecilia Woloch's new edition of *Tsigan: The Gypsy Poem*. Available at: <http://twosylviaspress.com/tsigan-the-gypsy-poem.html>.

Tsigan: The Gypsy Poem is a book-length poetic meditation that intertwines the author's personal journey of identity with the larger forces in the world that have shaped the fate and fortunes of the Roma people, also known as Gypsies. Originally published by Cahuenga Press in 2001, *Tsigan* has been brought up to date and expanded; it encompasses the ongoing struggles of the Roma people, especially in Europe, in the midst of a rising tide of xenophobia and against the background of historical distortions and erasures. Human rights activist Stephen D. Smith has called this new edition of *Tsigan*, "A lyrical journey through history and memory so beautiful that at times it belies the deep pain it represents." Poet and critic Carol Muske-Dukes has called *Tsigan*, "a daring, dancing conflagration in the reader's hand."

Cecilia Woloch is the author of six collections of poems, most recently *Carpathia* (BOA Editions 2009) and *Earth* (Two Sylvias Press 2015), as well as a novel, *Sur la Route* (Quale Press 2015). Her work has been translated into French, German, Bulgarian, Hungarian, Polish, Romanes and Ukrainian. Her awards include a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts, grants from the California Arts Council and CEC/ArtsLink International, a Pushcart Prize, and residencies around the world. Currently based in Los Angeles, she spends at least half of the year on the road. She collaborates regularly with artists in other disciplines.

The text of *Tsigan: The Gypsy Poem* has been adapted for multi-media performances in the U.S., France and Poland. In 2013, it was presented as part of the Vision and Voices Initiative at the University of Southern California in collaboration with The Shoah Foundation Archives:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/93uyzwxw4c5w70q/01_Woloch%E2%80%94Tsigan.mov?dl=0.

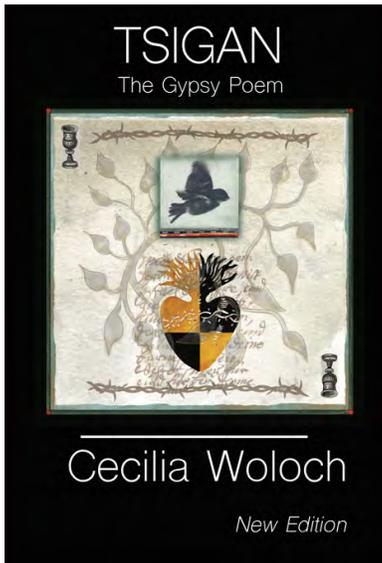
In 2015, a bilingual performance of *Tsigan* at the Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw was part of the commemoration there of International Holocaust Remembrance Day:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/zknplhi1nl6kydl/The_Gypsy_Poem_25012015.MOV?dl=0.

For further information, contact:

Two Sylvias Press, twosylviaspress@gmail.com, Susan Baukhages, Literary Publicist: sbaukhages@msn.com

or Author, Cecilia Woloch, ceciwo@gmail.com / www.ceciliawoloch.com



INFO SHEET: *Tsigan: The Gypsy Poem* (New Edition)

Title: *Tsigan: The Gypsy Poem* (New Edition)

Author: Cecilia Woloch

Publisher: Two Sylvias Press

Release Date: May 1, 2018

Dimensions: 6" x 9"

Paperback | \$16 | 156 pages

Available through Amazon or your local bookseller

Order from Amazon: <https://tinyurl.com/TsiganAmazon>

Order from Two Sylvias Press: <https://tinyurl.com/TsiganTwoSylvias>

This *New Edition* of ***Tsigan: The Gypsy Poem*** includes new poems by Cecilia Woloch reflecting the ongoing saga of the Roma people and includes an expanded and updated timeline based on her new research.

A lyrical journey through history and memory so beautiful that at times it belies the deep pain it represents. Woloch takes us through fragments of memory that give glimpses into a life-long struggle with a hidden identity. Before I read *Tsigan: The Gypsy Poem*, I knew what had happened to Gypsies across the ages—I knew the detail of their persecution under the Nazis; their gassing at Auschwitz—but now I understand it completely differently. Now I feel it as if I had lived it. Poetry so tender allows one to be led by the hand through an anguished and otherwise unapproachable world with dignity and love. *Tsigan: The Gypsy Poem* gives us time and space to breathe, to live the arc of history and be present in every age, and to take a personal journey into the deep struggle of memory and identity. It's difficult to say that reading about five hundred years of Gypsy persecution left me profoundly enriched, but there is no other way to describe how I feel. Woloch took me on a personal journey as seeker, historian, guide, storyteller. Touchingly authentic.

—**Stephen D. Smith, Executive Director, USC Shoah Foundation Institute**

AUTHOR BIO:

Cecilia Woloch is the author of six previous collections of poems, most recently *Carpathia* (BOA Editions 2009) and *Earth* (Two Sylvias Press 2015), as well as a novel, *Sur la Route* (Quale Press 2015). *Tsigan: The Gypsy Poem*, has been adapted for multi-media performances around the world, was published in French translation by Scribe l'Harmattan in 2014, and has been updated and expanded for a new English edition from Two Sylvias Press. In addition to French, Cecilia's work has also been translated into German, Bulgarian, Hungarian, Polish, Romanes and Ukrainian. Her awards include a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts, a Pushcart Prize, *The Indiana Review* Poetry Prize, *The New Ohio Review* Poetry Prize, and residencies around the world. Currently based in Los Angeles, she spends half of the year on the road.

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Tsigan: The Gypsy Poem (New Edition)

by Cecilia Woloch

Two Sylvias Press 2018

Tsigan: The Gypsy Poem is a book-length poetic meditation that intertwines the author's personal journey of identity with the larger forces in the world that have shaped the Roma people's fate and fortunes. In the words of poet Ralph Angel, "Upon the blank page of her grandmother's, and every Gypsy's, death, Cecilia Woloch writes her own story. Haunted. Unsettled. Gorgeously so."

Originally published by Cahuenga Press in 2002, a new edition of *Tsigan: The Gypsy Poem* has been issued by Two Sylvias Press. The new edition includes additional historical as well as personal material, expands upon the themes presented in the first edition, updates the timeline and extends the narrative into the present moment.

Praise for Tsigan: The Gypsy Poem

"A lyrical journey through history and memory so beautiful that at times it belies the deep pain it represents. Before I read *Tsigan: The Gypsy Poem*, I knew what had happened to Gypsies across the ages – I knew the details of their persecution under the Nazis; their gassing at Auschwitz – but now I understand it completely differently. Now I feel as if I had lived it. Poetry so tender allows one to be led by the hand through an anguished and otherwise unapproachable world with dignity and love."

– Stephen D. Smith, Executive Director, USC Shoah Foundation Institute,
Former Director, National Holocaust Centre and Museum

"I read and re-read it with admiration, indeed, but with gratitude for the realization, the authenticity of its wandering fire. What depth and scope you give to the very image of Tsigan, the Gypsy, until you have it become the spirit itself."

— Poet W.S. Merwin, in a letter to Cecilia Woloch

"I can't think of anyone who writes like Cecilia Woloch. In *Tsigan: The Gypsy Poem*, she reinvents herself as a Gypsy fire of language, a "single word" set flaming as a daring, dancing, lyric conflagration in the reader's hand."

– Carol Muske-Dukes

"What is extraordinary and profoundly compelling in this book-length poetic meditation is how skillfully Woloch intertwines her personal journey of identity with the larger forces in the world that have shaped the Roma people's fate and fortunes. "

–Maurya Simon

Performances & Presentations

Tsigan: The Gypsy Poem has been adapted for multi-media and bi-lingual performances around the globe. The text lends itself to presentations incorporating music, dance, polyvocal readings and film; the presentations, in turn, encourage dialogue and audience discussions, not only of Roma history, but of the intersections of personal and social history, of the ways we construct and understand identity, of otherness, statelessness, erasure, and of the status of nomadic peoples, immigrants and refugees across the world in a time of rising xenophobia and nationalism.

To see a clip from the 2013 presentation at the University of Southern California, as part of the Visions and Voices Initiative, in cooperation with the Shoah Foundation Archives:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/93uyzwxw4c5w70q/01_Woloch%E2%80%94Tsigan.mov?dl=0

To see a clip from the 2015 presentation at POLIN (The Museum of the History of Polish Jews) in Warsaw, part of the museum's commemoration of International Holocaust Remembrance Day:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/zknplhi1nl6kydl/The_Gypsy_Poem_25012015.MOV?dl=0

There have also been multimedia presentations of in Paris, Faverges and Montpellier, France. In Faverges, an audio performance was created collaboratively as part of the music-sound festival, *le Bruit de la Neige*. To hear the audio recording:

<https://soundcloud.com/atelier-sonore-nautilus/tzigane-le-poeme-gitan-woloch-politi-erinna-nautilus>

Cecilia Woloch is available to give interviews, readings, collaborate on multi-media performances based on *Tsigan: The Gypsy Poem*, lead discussions and conduct workshops. Contact Susan Baukhages, literary publicist: sbaukhages@msn.com.

Upcoming Events:

LOS ANGELES

May 12, 2018, 4 – 6 p.m.

Launch Party for the new edition of *Tsigan: The Gypsy Poem*

Book-signing & reading with Flamenco musician Ethan Margolis

This is an invitation-only event; to be added to the guest list, contact Clare Chu:

clarechu@msn.com

PARIS, FRANCE

June 20 @ 7pm

A bilingual presentation with music

L'Harmattan Arts et Cultures, [24 rue des Ecoles, Paris](#)

BASEL, SWITZERLAND

June 25 @ 7p.m.

Reading with music

Biblioteksbar

BIO

Cecilia Woloch has published six previous collections of poems, most recently *Carpathia* (BOA Editions, 2009) and *Earth* (Two Sylvias Press, 2015), as well as a novel, *Sur la Route* (Quale Press 2015). Her second collection, *Tsigan: The Gypsy Poem*, has been adapted for multi-media performances in the U.S. and Europe, was published in French translation by Scribe-l'Harmattan in 2014, and has been expanded and updated for a new edition from Two Sylvias Press. In addition to French, Cecilia's work has also been translated into German, Polish Bulgarian, Hungarian, Ukrainian and Romanes. Her honors include fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, CEC/ArstLink International and the Center for International Theatre Development, as well as a Pushcart Prize, The Indiana Review Poetry Prize and The New Ohio Review Poetry Prize. She collaborates regularly with artists in other disciplines and conducts workshops for writers around the world. Based in Los Angeles, she spends half the year on the road.

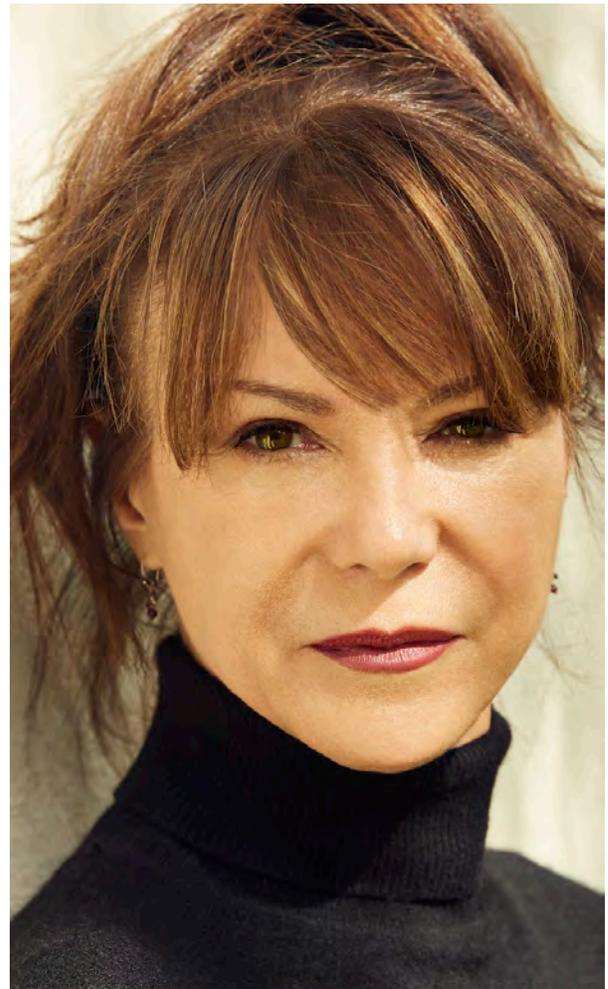


Photo credit: Erica Simone

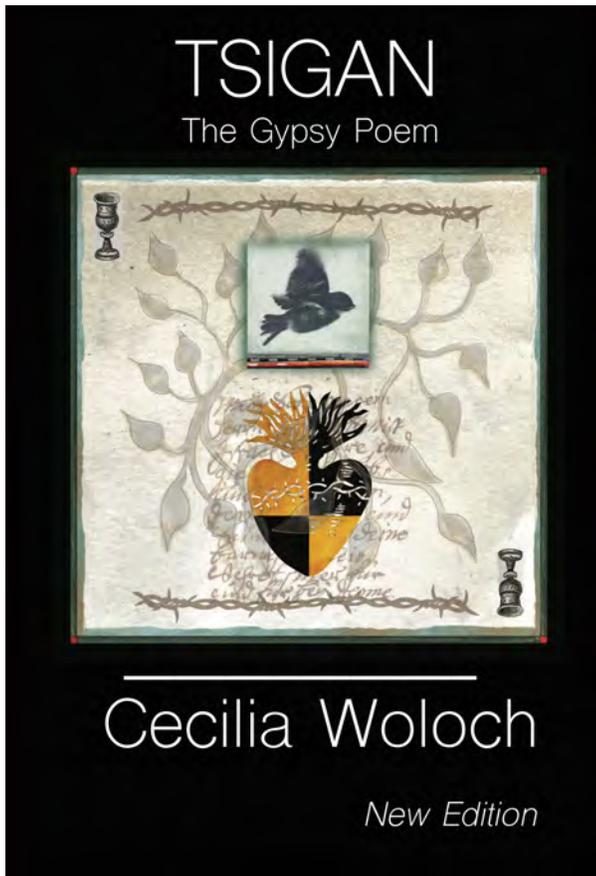
In Warsaw, blackbird girls
swoop down in flocks
the old town square a swirl
of dark-eyed dark-haired girls
in brilliant skirts who circle
trilling at my waist
throw up their arms
to beg for sweets
who know among the tourists
whom to choose
(how do they know?)
so being chosen, being glad
in any language (tak
means yes)
I let them pick from sticky cakes
behind the glass, the old proprietress
glares back at me
and thinks, Amerykanka, idiotka
but cannot refuse
my cash (how far
in zlotys dollars go!)
so I buy cake for every girl
then watch them fly away again
their small hands sugared, glittering
as if I'd given
jewels to them
the sky above the bitter city
sharp as diamonds then.

~ Cecilia Woloch

from Tsigan: The Gypsy Poem (Two Sylvias Press, 2018)

Available for purchase from Amazon, Two Sylvias Press, or your local bookseller

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Photo credit: Erica Simone