



Second Empire

Richie Hofmann

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"The delicate arc of these poems intimates--rather than tells--a love story: celebration, fear of loss, storm, abandonment, an opening forth. Richie Hofmann disciplines his natural elegance into the sterner recognitions that matter: 'I am a little white omnivore,' the speaker of *Second Empire* discovers. Mastering directness and indirection, Hofmann's poems break through their own beauty." -- **Rosanna Warren**

This debut's spare, delicate poems explore ways we experience the afterlife of beauty while ornately examining lust, loss, and identity. Drawing upon traditions of amorous sonnets, these love-elegies desire an artistic and sexual connection to others--other times, other places--in order to understand aesthetic pleasures the speaker craves. Distant and formal, the poems feel both ancient and contemporary.

Richie Hofmann is the winner of a Ruth Lilly Fellowship from the Poetry Foundation, and his poems have appeared or are forthcoming in the *New Yorker*, *Poetry*, the *Kenyon Review*, and *Ploughshares*. He received his MFA from Johns Hopkins University and is currently a doctoral student in English at Emory University.

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