

# HIBISCUS TART

CARIN SMEATON



Tart was a term aimed at wāhine toa who were confident, outspoken, and Indigenous – mana wāhine who were our nans, mums, aunties, and sisters. As staunch advocates for social justice, they questioned the establishment, including the literary gatekeepers of the time.

*Hibiscus Tart* gives a seriously fan-gurly nod to this radical cohort of mana wāhine. It's for all you bloody tarts out there doing the hard mahi, equalising the playing field, feeding the fam, calling the karanga, surviving, representing, past, present and future.

*"Poetry that bears brave, hard-hitting witness to Aotearoa today, calls out its inequalities, spits at its abuses, sings of its cultural vibrancy, weaves with its surviving colours."*

—Tracey Slaughter

*"Carin's kupu come sideways, they break the rules, they respect the kuia and the power of slang, her poems are a testament to staying sly and aware, her angles are always a beautiful surprise, she embraces the ordinary and the divine, and biting into her mahi is to experience both, like popping candy let loose in the cage of the waha."*

—Talia Marshall

Carin Smeaton (Muaūpoko/Ngāti Hāmoa) has published poems in *Landfall*, *Cordite*, *Spinoff*, *Turbine*, *Best New Zealand Poems*, *NZ Listener*, and was the feature author in the 2024 issue of *Poetry NZ*. She is based in Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland. *Hibiscus Tart* is her second collection of poetry.

**Details** | Softcover | 195 x 145mm | 86pp  
Nov. 2024 | ISBN: 978-1-7385945-1-1  
RRP: \$28.00

**Sales and Distribution:** Expensive Hobby  
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