



For when words fail us

a small book of changes

Claire Beynon

To be released November 2024

ISBN 978-1-98-859586-3 • RRP \$30 • 130 × 190mm • 252pp
Softcover. Poetry, memoir, novel in verse.

SELLING POINTS

- Dunedin artist and writer
- lyrical immersive poems set in NZ and the US
- works in collaboration with other artists and writers

A man and a woman—complete strangers by any regular measure yet, inexplicably, not strangers, too—cross paths at an exhibition opening one snowy night in Upstate New York. As if in response to some pre-scripted prompt, they embark on a conversation that will alter each of them in ways neither could have anticipated. A night like any other becomes a decade like no other. Criss-crossing between the US and New Zealand, Claire Beynon's *For When Words Fail Us* is a spellbinding story of tenderness and obsession, and art as an agent for change.

By way of distraction, she constructs a toaster house.
A web of copper wire weaves windows into walls,
ties bricks to fascias, laces gutters to roof to chimney

to fly-away chimney smoke. She sends a charge
across the façade, sings the white sky blue,
flashes orange onto the front doormat.

Inside, there are shivers of sound, the invisible
murmur of magnetic fields waking. They disturb
the fragile envelope of home. She conjures

electricity, trees and bees. Her brushes ripen
fruit, coax flowers to open. Watching, he can tell
she knows that ink dreams in water.



Claire Beynon is an artist, writer and interdisciplinary researcher living in Ōtepoti Dunedin. Her poetry, flash fiction and short stories have been widely published and anthologised, and she has won or been shortlisted for a number of awards including winning the Takahē Monica Taylor Poetry Prize in 2021 for 'Today's Sky'. She works in collaborative partnerships with scientists, composers, artists and writers in Aotearoa and overseas. Two summer research seasons in Antarctica continue to inform her work. Her first collection was *Open Book: Poetry & Images*.



Sales / distribution: Expensive Hobby
www.expensivehobby.org • hello@expensivehobby.org

www.thecubapress.nz • hello@thecubapress.nz • Box 9321, Wellington 6141