BREATHE IN THE SKY

POEMS PRAYERS & PHOTOGRAPHS



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BREATHE IN THE SKY

POEMS PRAYERS & PHOTOGRAPHS

HASNA MUHAMMAD

BREATHE IN THE SKY

POEMS PRAYERS & PHOTOGRAPHS
BY HASNA MUHAMMAD

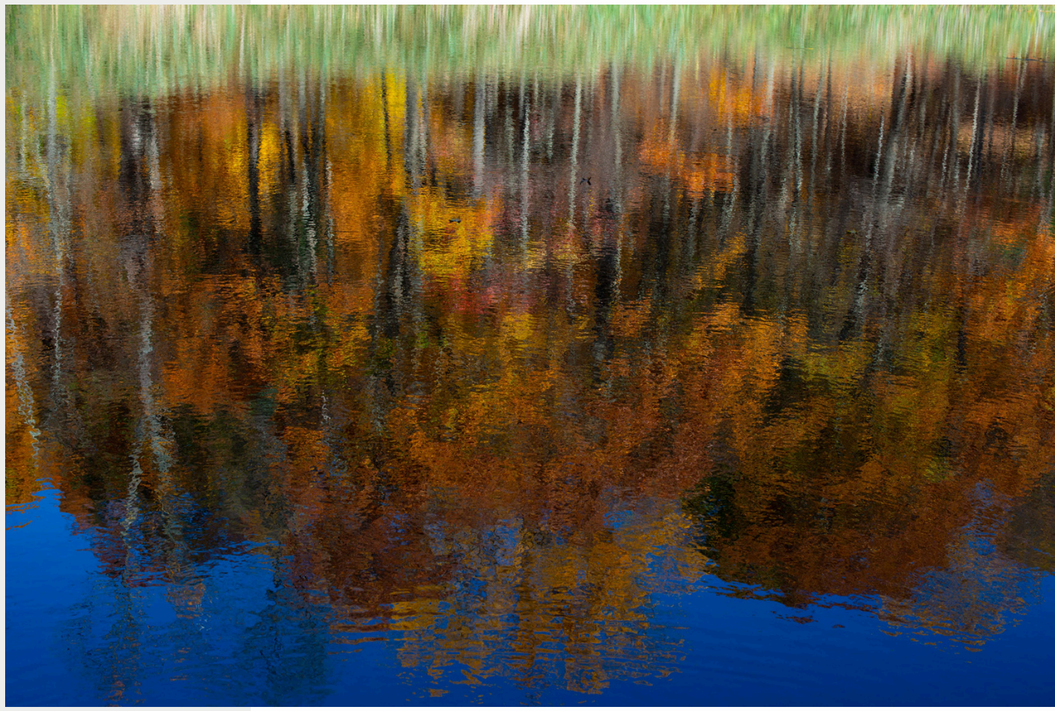
"*Breathe In the Sky* is me spreading my extremities into the high blue infinite space of the universe to breathe-in the sky. To *be* in the sky— lingering in that split second when both feet are off the ground in order to take the next step forward or climb a mountain or even fly." **— HM**

(From the Preface)

A COLLECTION OF 34 POEMS & 29 COLOR AND BLACK & WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS

DESCRIPTION OF BREATHE IN THE SKY

Hasna Muhammad claims her voice as an artist with *Breathe In the Sky: Poems Prayers & Photographs*. The poetry delves into family, social justice, and the human condition. The prayers echo a spiritual journey toward self-fullness. The images portray the patience of nature, a slice of the street, and the love of family. Hasna pushes through self-inflicted barriers and finds herself whole and fulfilled on the other side. *Breathe In the Sky* is a declaration that it is never too late to transform doubts and vulnerabilities into bravery and confidence.



// REFLECTION BY HASNA MUHAMMAD

TO LOVE YOU

I have not always been strong
Nor have I always been wise
I try now to be
But forgive me for when I have not

When my weakness has disappointed you
When my mistakes have hurt you
When my blind eye has left you
without a protector
or savior
or friend

Forgive me

I am no longer that person
Even if just yesterday
She has since learned her lesson
Found her true voice

She is gone
and with her
whatever led her
to not know
not be
or understand

I am in her place
Begging your forgiveness
Hoping to forgive myself
Stepping on my own shoulders
Trying to avoid another missed opportunity
to love you



// VASE AND PLATTER BY HASNA MUHAMMAD



// SISTER SONIA'S SMILE BY HASNA MUHAMMAD

My Dear Sister. What a lovely and spiritual book. As I read your words, I situated my spirit in the curves and creases of your breath breathing confessions of herstories and wisdom. As I read your pictured words, I was reminded that it is possible to live in peace on this beautiful earth. Your words. Your pictures. Remind us artists that we have a mission that will propel us to the stars. Thank you, Sister Hasna.

SAYS

SONIA SANCHEZ

Breathe In the Sky is this phenomenal and consequential book. It is evident in keeping with the many mysteries of life, especially Black life that the spirit of artmaking is passed from generation to generation. Dr. Hasna Muhammad, in keeping with the demands of creating fine poetry and photography, has provided us with her unique voice in two artistic disciplines. The pieces on Sonia Sanchez, Ossie Davis, Ruby Dee, and Muhammad Ali, and “Children Who Climb Mountains” all ride the wind and “Break” through the clouds of this remarkable collection. *Breathe In The Sky: Poems, Prayers and Photographs* will greatly support readers' immune systems and leave them wanting more breath.



// MAN AND CHILD ON MALCOLM X BOULEVARD AND 122ND STREET BY HASNA MUHAMMAD

HAKI R. MADHUBUTI SAYS



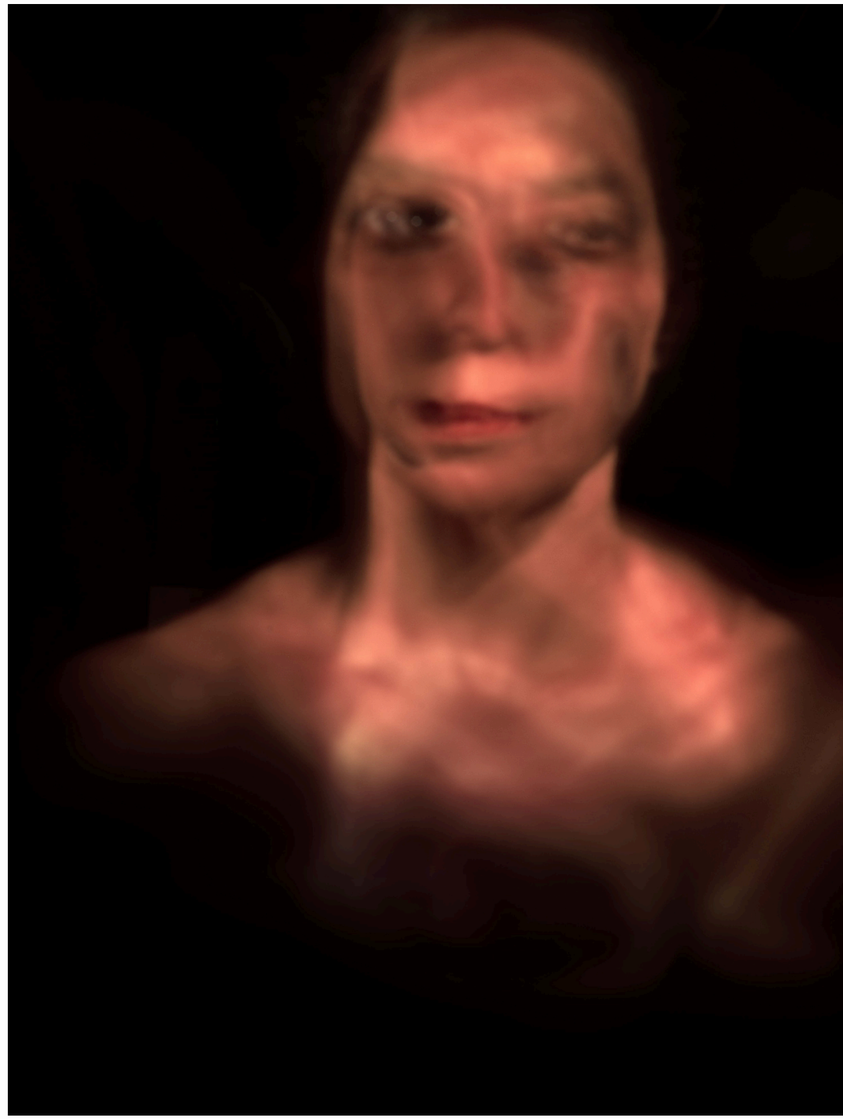
// MY MOTHER AND MY DAUGHTER
BY HASNA MUHAMMAD

This is an important book full of life's quandaries and joy. Looking at the first image in this book, you will know immediately the sensitivity of the artist who created what you hold in your hands. This ode to poetry and photography and her very personal journey begins with her mother and daughter: the grandmother looking tenderly at her offspring pondering the legacy in her arms...the experience you will have with this book, where the artist takes us, is enduring. Hasna Muhammad "nudges" us to center ourselves and be here...now. She encourages us to embrace who we are and soar with conviction prompting us to address our very own path with truth.

JEANNE MOUTOUSSAMY ASHE SAYS

In conversation across media with the likes of Gordon Parks and Sonia Sanchez, Hasna Muhammad's *Breathe in the Sky: Poems Prayers & Photographs* brings us into a world of fine contemplative aesthetics, whether verbal or visual. Through a womanist perspective, the photographer and poet dares to tap into a sense of the universal through the most intimate and personal. A spirit worker, Hasna's works gently inspire while tacitly asking age-old questions. What does it mean to be human? What is art? One thing for sure, Dr. Muhammad is herself an artist much like her mother and father.

PETRA RICHTEROVÁ
SAYS



// MOM N ME BY HASNA MUHAMMAD

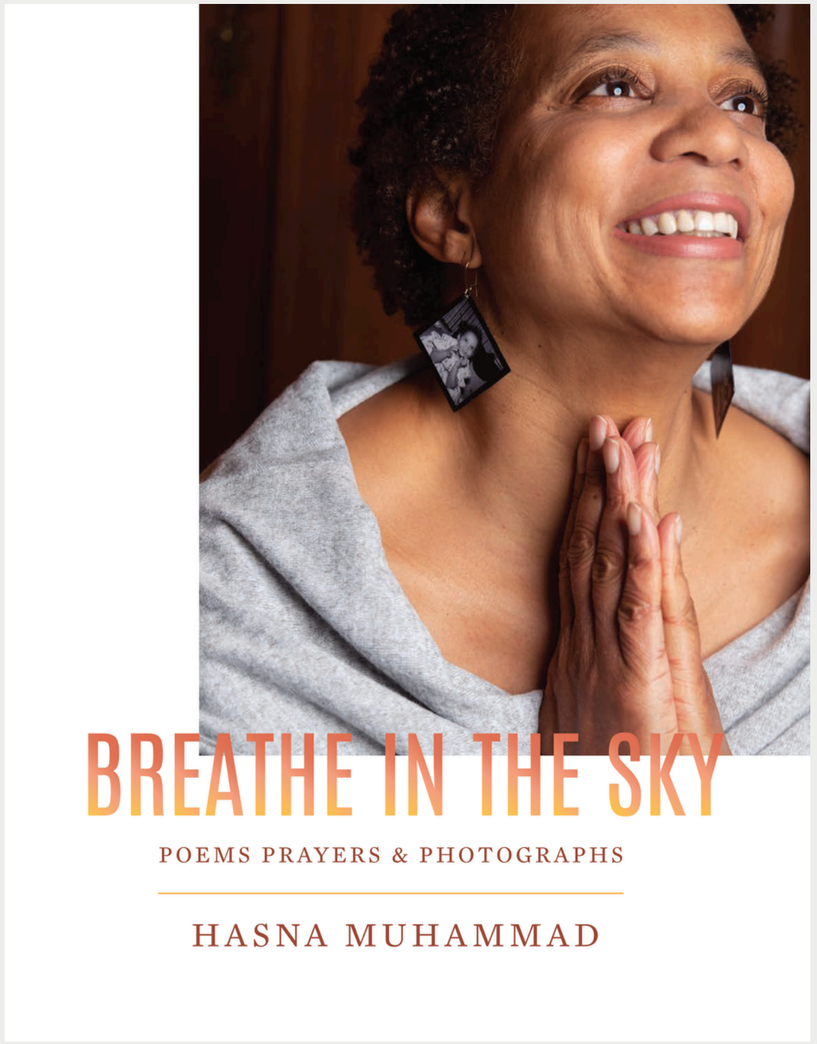


// THE BALLERINA BY HASNA MUHAMMAD

You will not only catch your breath but see freedom ring! A verbal and visual flight of power! An ode to the love of LIFE!

SAYS

LOLA FLASH



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BY HASNA MUHAMMAD

RETAIL PRICE
$45

FOR READINGS, EXHIBITIONS,
ORDERS, AND SALES
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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

HASNA MUHAMMAD is a visual artist, writer, and educator whose work focuses on family, social justice, education, and the human condition. Her photography has been exhibited in various cities in the United States, and some are featured in her book, Breathe In the Sky: Poems Prayers & Photographs.

Hasna provides professional preparation for individuals and organizations that focus on diversifying executive, educational, and civic leadership forces. As an education activist, Hasna speaks about Education As Justice.

Hasna is a 2018-2019 Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture Fellow, a Moth Storyteller, and a member of the Harlem Writer's Guild and the Dramatist Guild. Hasna lives in New York where she and her husband raised three children.

HASNA MUHAMMAD

SPEAKER | STORYTELLER | VISUAL ARTIST





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