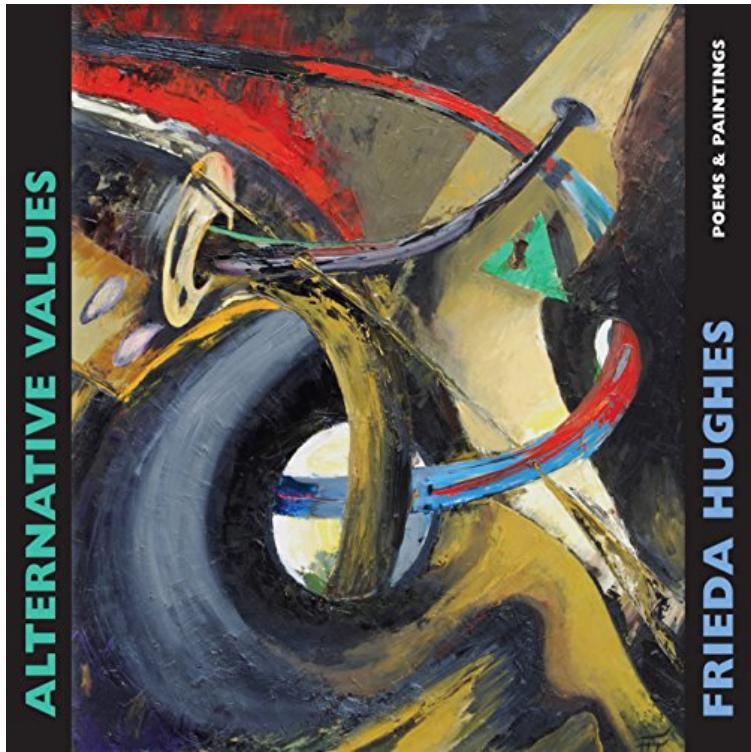


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## Alternative Values: Poems paintings

Roger Evans

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Frieda Hughes's poems and paintings reflect her early years in Devon and Yorkshire, and her later experiences when living in London, Australia, and most recently, Wales. From childhood, writing and painting have been the two driving forces behind her commitment to life. They first came together in her illustration of two of her seven published childrenrsquo;s books, and through her cartoons - she was cartoonist for the West Australian Magazine when living in Western Australia in the early 90s. In 2002 Frieda Hughes received a NESTA Award to undertake her work on Forty-five, a summary of her life to that age in 45 poems and a 225 foot long, 4 foot high, 45 panel abstract depicting the emotional landscape of her life. This was the beginning of a growing collaboration between her poetry and her artwork, which is now further realised in Alternative Values, which includes 60 full-colour plates of both her abstract and figurative work. The paintings will be shown at the Belgravia Gallery, London, where the book is launched in October 2015.

'An accomplished painter, she brings to her poetry the same landscape of contrasts, in her vivid descriptions of light and dark, struggle and release, the cleansing properties of fire. She is a courageous poet with a rich palette' - Maura Dooley Jamie McKendrick, PBS Bulletin. About the Author Frieda Hughes was born in London in 1960, grew up in

Devon, and after living in various parts of England and Australia now lives on the Welsh Borders. She wrote and painted from an early age, and for many years has been a painter and children's writer. She has published four poetry collections with Bloodaxe, Wooroloo (1999), which was a Poetry Book Society Special Commendation, Stonepicker (2001), Waxworks (2002) and The Book of Mirrors (2009). She received a NESTA Award in 2002 to help her work on Forty-five, her portrait of her life in 45 poems and paintings, the poems from which were published by HarperCollins in the US in 2006. Her latest book is Alternative Values: poems paintings, due from Bloodaxe in October 2015. Her first children's book, Getting Rid of Edna, was published by Heinemann (UK) and Harper Row (USA) in 1984. Four other titles followed from Simon and Schuster: The Meal a Mile Long (1989) and Waldorf and the Sleeping Granny (1990), which she also illustrated; followed by The Thing in the Sink (1992) and Rent-a-Friend (1994). Her most recent titles are The Tall Story (MacDonald Young Books, 1997) and Three Scary Stories (HarperCollins, 2001).