



## State of the Union: Fifty Political Poems

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From rough optimism to sharp criticism, fifty American poets present new work dissecting the current political climate in America. Wide-ranging writers bring their bold voices to this collection, including Eileen Myles, Matthew Rohrer, Rebecca Wolff, Terrance Hayes, Joe Wenderoth, and Tao Lin.

### “Walking by Hope Street”

*Look at the landscape,  
A lot of damage, no?  
But we are here together,  
And of needing me, here  
The world needs me,  
We are too alone.  
And what of our orange daylight,  
Growing darker as the lamplit  
Trees grow dark. There  
Is not enough to say.  
But our hands, our gentle  
Frozen hands sift through  
Things like numbers out of breath.  
It will all be okay, I promise.  
Promise who? Promise the faded land.*  
—Noelle Kocot

### “Literary Agency”

*Coretta Scott  
King has died, the other  
day. Dream  
unrealized. Lost  
and found, lost again, bathos  
my motivation  
my Elysian  
dream. The place  
inside  
untutored, incorruptible,  
without relation. That's  
something to hold onto,  
and uncontingency  
dressing the wound. That's  
sad and just “what it is.”  
It is what it is.  
That's what I say  
when I can't bear the news.*  
—Rebecca Wolff

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