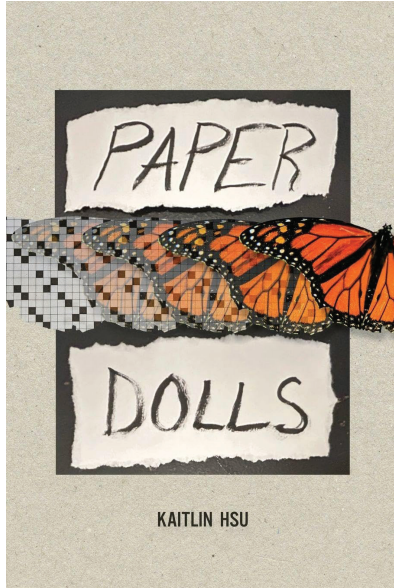


NEW FROM SIBLING RIVALRY PRESS

a chapbook of poetry

PAPER DOLLS

KAITLIN HSU



SRP BRIDGES SERIES #2

Curated by Kay Ulanday Barrett

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SYNOPSIS

PAPER DOLLS is a dazzling debut that reimagines the lyric poem through personality quizzes, crossword puzzles, fashion magazines, language lessons, and slumber parties. Blending English, Chinese, pop culture, and queer longing, Kaitlin Hsu explores what it means to inherit a language, build an identity, and love across generations. Tender, playful, and formally inventive, these poems transform the fragments that shape us into something wholly new, revealing that translation is not merely about words, but about becoming.

BIOGRAPHY

KAITLIN HSU 徐欣 (she/她) is a 2025 Lambda Literary Fellow and 2024 Margins Fellow at the Asian American Writers' Workshop. Her work can be found in *A Public Space*, *Poet Lore*, *Peach Mag*, and more. She has also received support from Brooklyn Poets, Tin House, the Mendocino Coast Writers Conference, and genARTS Silicon Valley. She currently works at Kaya Press as an associate editor and freelances as a crossword constructor. Find her on Instagram as [@kaitlinhsu](https://www.instagram.com/kaitlinhsu) or on X as [@hsuperemo](https://twitter.com/hsuperemo).



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Keywords: Lesbian Poetry, Queer Poetry, LGBTQ+ Voices, Asian American Poetry, Chinese American Poetry, Queer Asian American Literature, Lesbian Poetry, Chinese Diaspora, Intergenerational Family and Identity, Bilingual and Multilingual Poetry, Gender, Womanhood and Desire, Experimental and Visual Poetry, Pop Culture, and Contemporary Poetry



STYLE

Hair by my father, and my father's father.
Dress from my mother's closet. Jewelry
from every ex-lover, except one. The lines
that come back unbidden, by Moore.
("The deepest feeling always shows itself
in silence; / not in silence, but restraint...")
The distances maintained, from desire and fear.
My fear, from pride. My desire, from image.
If I were stranded on a deserted island,
I would bring the socks with *mother*
stitched on the right and *fucker* on the left
for warmth; *suck, stupid, sex* and the other
important s-words for subsistence. Yes,
I knew all along what belonged only to me.



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***Paper Dolls* is the second of the Bridges Series, hosted by Sibling Rivalry Press, an annual chapbook series curated each year by a different poet invited to serve as guest editor and curator. Each curator selects four authors whose chapbooks will be published by Sibling Rivalry Press, creating space for new voices, unexpected conversations, and vibrant literary community. Rooted in SRP's core belief that poetry builds bridges and saves lives, the series seeks to connect writers across identities, geographies, generations, and experiences while championing work that is fearless and transformative.**

The 2026 curator is Kay Ulanday Barrett.

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PRAISE FOR PAPER DOLLS

“Kaitlin Hsu designs a rich, multi-layered, complex, and inventive debut with *Paper Dolls*. It is an absolute journey traversing space, puzzles, language, and borders with a conversational dexterity that upends intergenerational reflections and what it means to be Queer and Chinese. Analytical and rigorous, these poems propel storytelling in constant motion. Hsu’s poetic visuals alone are absorbing. Hsu composes motifs of pop culture, culinary traditions, pastorals, family patterns, womanhood, grief, humor, and intimacy, with a dynamic, singular artistry. The range of style and story steers readers into a dizzying pirouette in the best way possible. The level of play and voyaging challenges norms and power in ways that feel refreshing. *Paper Dolls* will leave you with more questions, more aches, more pathways, and more generative possibilities than your imagination thought possible!”

- Kay Ulanday Barrett -

Curator of the 2026 Bridges Series, winner of the 2022 Cy Twombly Award for Poetry, and author of *More Than Organs*, a Lambda Literary Finalist & Stonewall Honor Award Book.

“*Paper Dolls* is the kind of chapbook that reminds me how thrilling poetry can be when a poet refuses to behave. Kaitlin Hsu makes language into a playground, a puzzle, a family archive, a lover’s bed, a magazine, a crossword, a place where English and Chinese can collide and flirt and become something neither language could make alone. These poems are formally fearless but never interested in cleverness for cleverness’s sake; beneath all that invention is a tremendous tenderness—for mothers and daughters, for queer desire, for cultural inheritance, for the complicated selves we become in order to become ourselves. Hsu understands that identity isn’t something we solve. It’s something we play with, grieve, desire, translate, mispronounce, inherit, and remake. *Paper Dolls* is smart as hell, wonderfully strange, deeply queer, and alive with possibility. I loved getting lost in it.”

- Bryan Borland -

SRP Publisher and author of *DIG*, a Lambda Literary Finalist & Stonewall Honor Award Book, and *Brotherful*, a Finalist for the Thom Gunn Award for Gay Poetry