DETROIT, April 1, 2015—Poet Ken Mikolowski ran a letterpress printing house for over thirty years, setting poems by hand, one letter at a time—an experience that influenced his love of short verse. In That That, Mikolowski presents his trademark quirky, humorous, and insightful poems, none longer than three brief lines and some made up of only two or three carefully chosen words. Together, these poems create a narrative of life and love broken down to the most minimal of forms.

Mikolowski’s deceptively simple collection takes readers on a whirlwind tour through weighty topics and humorous vignettes. He reflects on the nature of art, identity, and legacy in poems that muse in their entirety, “I’ve never met a deadline / I’ve ever met yet” and “Why I am not a New York poet / Detroit.” Mikolowski also gives unparalleled assessments of serious subjects like love, aging, and death, declaring, “Sometimes / I don’t think of you / for hours” and “Getting old / gets old / real quick.” Some poems are more lighthearted and delight only in the wordplay of rhyme or unexpected imagery, adding an unmistakably playful element to this spare but polished volume.

Mikolowski’s collection demonstrates the singular power of language in the hands of a master craftsman. That That will be read and re-read by anyone interested in short poetry.

About the author: Ken Mikolowski is the author of four previous books, Thank You Call Again, little mysteries, Big Enigmas, and Remember Me. His poems have been published in Brooklyn Rail, Hanging Loose, Exquisite Corpse, and Abandon Automobile, and A Detroit Anthology, and have been recorded by the Frank Carlberg Group. Mikolowski teaches poetry writing at the University of Michigan and, along with his wife Ann, was publisher, editor, and printer of The Alternative Press. He lives in Ann Arbor.

ANN ARBOR BOOK LAUNCH: Wednesday, April 1st, 7-9p.m. Ken Mikolowski reads from his new collection. Books available for purchase and signing.