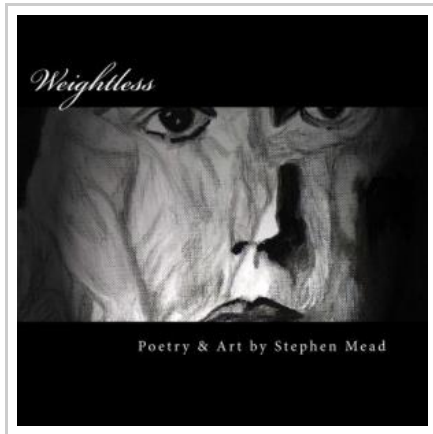



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## Weightless: Poetry and Art of Perseverance

By Stephen Mead

CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform. Paperback.

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Paperback. 62 pages. Dimensions: 8.5in. x 8.5in. x

0.1in. Weightless originally began as an homage to the patients and loved ones I had the privilege to meet while working as a direct caregiver on an Infectious Disease Unit during the mid-late 1990s. I had come across the book, *Living with AIDS*, a photographic journal by Sal Lopes (Bullfinch Press, copyright 1994), and many of the images seemed personally iconic to me, representative for so many lives which had touched mine. The more I began collaging images from the book in watercolor paintings, for some reason I found myself also delving into the theme of the series (love, loss), in a universal and historical context. In other words, the AIDS crisis was another facet of the ageless struggle for humanity on a personal and global level. I found the series incorporating classical themes such as *Liebestod* mixed in with documented examples of the struggle for perseverance: Kosovo refugees, Anne Frank and Auschwitz, soldiers from any time, any place, bandaged and attempting to recover from wounds. Mixed in with these grave themes, the medium of working in watercolor itself brought...



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