Interview of Author/Illustrator [Teresa Lakier](http://www.amazon.com/s/ref%3Dntt_athr_dp_sr_1?_encoding=UTF8&sort=relevancerank&search-alias=books&ie=UTF8&field-author=Teresa%20Lakier) on her new book:

**“POETRY & PORTRAIT: AN ANTHOLOGY: PART III AND PART IV.”**

Interview, Los Angeles, California, 2016.

Q. Why did you begin writing?

**A. I began writing to express what I cannot express in a visual form and to verbalize my thoughts about visual art. I found writing about art to be a pathway to writing about other things.**

Q. What inspired this book?

**A. Thoughts and ideas in the form of poetry. These thoughts, ideas, and writings keep up the spirit when things around us make us feel troubled. The lives and lessons of heroes/ heroines, specifically, women, who have contributed to our lives in the most remarkable ways. My artist statement explains this concept.**

Q. What is your artist statement?

**A. My purpose is to pay tribute to those heroic individuals who have contributed to the world. I hope to honor them as a testimonial of their contribution.  Through creative means, I find them in my heart and hope others may do the same.  We must all contribute, either as artist, or observer by: experiencing their souls through understanding their purpose, expanding our knowledge of their gifts, and by being aware of the historical stepping-stones of humanity throughout the ages. Without these contributions, of which we must continually remind ourselves, the past, present, and future would be lost in the thoughts of the here and now.**

**Furthermore, I would like to honor the women of the 20th – 21st century. Those who spoke out, dreamt the dreams women in their generation dared not, and then, put those dreams into action. This is for those who contributed to humanity in so many remarkable ways. It is with their presence that we, as women, are here today, living as we are, and with the freedoms that we uphold.**

Q. What was the most challenging thing about publishing this book?

**A. Poetry comes naturally to me, as well as, my specific style of illustration. But compiling it was a challenge. More specifically, the editing process.**

Q. Do you have a writing style?

**A. Yes, I think so; it’s a unique way of expressing myself. It has kind of a quirky feel to it. I believe it is called List Poetry.**

Q. Is there a message you want your readers to grasp?

**A. That no matter how bad your troubles, there is always a positive side to them. We learn and grow from these experiences, and we find validation from them for our future positive action.**

Q. How much of this book is real?

**A. It is an intellectual discourse, of situations and thoughts about situations. So, I suppose, there is a reality expressed in the situation each poem delineates.**

Q. Are experiences based on someone you know, or events in your own life?

**A. Both. Part III is based on woman who were heroic throughout the 20th – 21st**

**century, which have inspired many by their individuality. Part IV talks about the various situations one gets themselves into and a way to find a way out, positively.**

Q. What other current projects are you working on?

**A. Various projects.**

Q. Name one entity that you feel supported you.

**A. SCBWI. They have taken me in and informed me of the process of illustrating and writing for publication.**

Q. Can you explain in one sentence what the book is about?

**A. It is about human character and the process of evolution, politically and socially.**

Q. Who designed the cover?

**A. I did.**

Q. What was the hardest part of the writing of the book?

**A. The editing process.**

Q. Did you learn anything from writing the book?

**A. I have learnt about many things: illustration, writing, editing, publishing, and marketing.**

Q. Do you have anything specific you want to say to your readers?

**A. Don’t distress. There’s always a positive way to find your way out of your troubles. You just have to look for it and you will receive it.**

Questions about this interview should be sent to Teresa Lakier at info@teresalakier.com. You can learn more about both Poetry & Portrait: An Anthology: Part I & Part II and Part III & Part IV by going to www.poetryandportrait.com. Poetry & Portrait can be found on Create Space, Amazon, and Barnes and Noble, as well as, other websites.