



Media Kit - *Prelude to a Change of Mind: The First Book in The Lands of Nod*

Author biographies

A native of La Porte, Texas and a 1978 honors graduate of Austin College (Sherman, Texas), Rob Lewis (aka Robert Stikmanz) has had a presence in the Austin creative underground for most of three decades. Active as a poet throughout the state in the 1980s, Lewis was a regularly featured reader in Austin, Fort Worth, and San Antonio. His poems and other writings appeared in all three of the *Sleepy Tree* anthologies, and in *Aileron*, *The Argonaut*, *ViAtzlan*, *The Cannon*, and *Vowel Movement*, among others. Three chapbooks of his poems were produced by Texas presses. An artist as well as an author, Lewis's visual work has ranged from cover illustrations for chapbooks by Albert Huffstickler to political posters to digital drawings to ambient video projections.

From 1983 to 1988 he and partner Michael Ambrose owned and operated Liberty Graphics, a design and pre-press production studio centrally involved in Austin's vibrant literary, music, art, and political scenes of the time.

Involved in small press publishing since college, at different times Lewis was part of the editorial/production collectives of *Window Magazine*, *The Lone Star Socialist*, and *The Iowa Idea*. With partner Ambrose he published chapbooks of poems by Ed Buffaloe, Michael Ditmore, Joe Ericson, and his own, *Restless Native*. Most significantly, under the imprint, "Rob Lewis, Publisher," he produced *Amerikan Journeys::Jornadas Americanas*, by Ricardo Sánchez, the last original collection of poems to see print in the poet's lifetime.

A video artist creating for public access television from the late eighties, in 1999 Lewis shifted focus to live ambient video performance. As half of neverthesameriver, he mixed lush, abstract, evolving projections in real time for dance events, gallery performances, festival installations, and private parties. The Austin Museum of Digital Art featured neverthesameriver as video artists at its first anniversary showcase in 2002. In 2003 neverthesameriver ceased activity. Lewis continued working independently under the name, stikmanz. This was the origin of the pseudonym, Robert Stikmanz, he now uses for all his creative work.

Today Lewis lives with his companion, J.X. Nye, in Austin, Texas. *Prelude to a Change of Mind* is his first novel.

350 Word count

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85 Word count