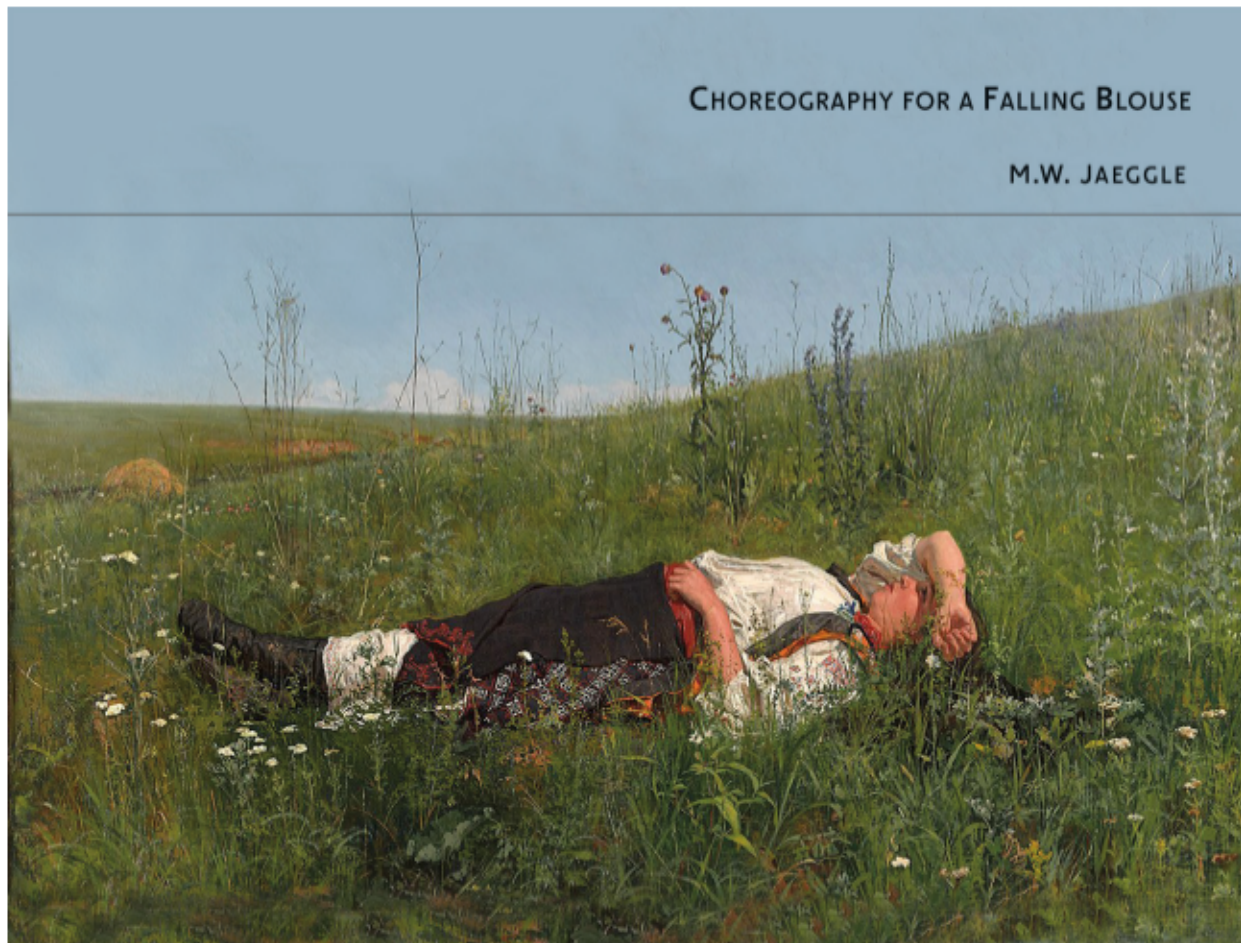


CHOREOGRAPHY FOR A FALLING BLOUSE BY M.W. JAEGGLE



**Katabasis**

Behind a woman on a red horse is a black cross, Janus-faced,  
at once a memorial to the deported Acadians  
and the symbol of a shared faith,

a faith whose avowed and clothed  
would later thwack, thrash, berate,  
and abuse civilization into children.

Trailing behind this woman's restlessness  
is something like a shadow, if a shadow is understood  
as a subdued persistence.

Is it the pained cries of a child led down a hallway  
then down into a basement, a sound carried by the wind,  
or is it a fermata, a cavalcade of families forced to move south,  
too hungry and too cold to cry—which is it within me  
compelling her head to turn back, as if somebody called out her name?

—*French Cross, 1988*



**M.W. Jaeggle** was born in British Columbia. Educated at Simon Fraser University and McGill University, he is the author of two chapbooks, *The Night of the Crash* (Alfred Gustav, 2019) and *Janus on the Pacific* (Baseline, 2019).

cover: *On Holiday* (Girl resting on the grass)

**Nikolai Dmitriyevich Kuznetsov** (1850-1929), Russian painter and art professor at the St. Petersburg Imperial Academy of Arts.

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***Choreography for a Falling Blouse***

has been published in a limited edition of 100 copies. This book has been printed on 80 lb. Mohawk Via Vellum (30% recycled) and bound into a full-colour cover of the same stock. Endpapers. 34 pages

ISBN 978-1-989946-14-5 2021 CA\$15 (INCL. CDN. S/H)

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