

“A gaze-changer.” — Tisa Bryant, *Residual*

# CAROUSEL

## AN ESSAY ON SEEING

BY SARAH MINOR

**From an award-winning writer, a personal and cultural meditation on vision and re-visioning.**

When *Carousel* opens, a professor has just begun delivering a slide lecture to a darkened classroom:

"It's the audience that allows a performance to begin. Every limit is a set of controls. Who is speaking? Not 'I' anymore, an angle without audience, but a marionette, a woman elsewhere, everywhere else, everywhere strung into a frame."

Across short, immersive sections masterfully fusing the slide lecture and the lyric essay, Minor invites us to see across time as a professor-narrator tying the Bayeux Tapestry to surrealist paintings, Instagram reels, and drone warfare. Blending art history with memoir, close looking with confession, *Carousel* considers how the pursuit of panoramic vision frames power, distorts reality, and implicates contemporary viewers and subjects. In language that captures the disorientation of the whirling ride, Minor shows us how the more we strive to see, the more we ultimately reveal ourselves.

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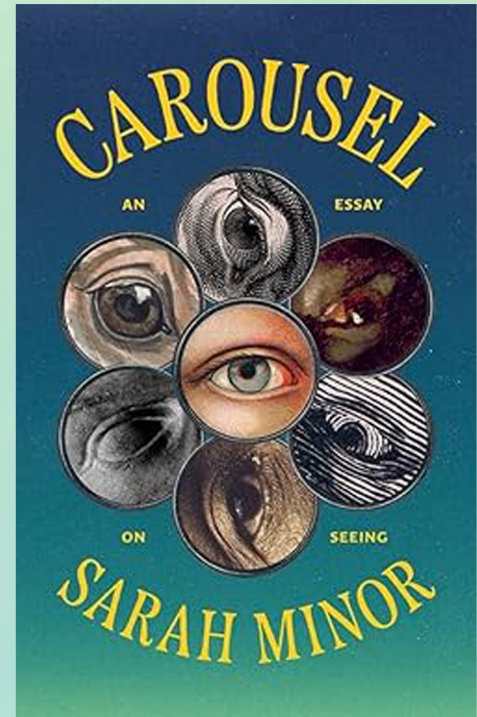
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Sarah Minor is the author of two previous books, *Bright Archive* and *Slim Confessions: The Universe as a Spider or Spit*, as well as the chapbook *The Persistence of the Bonyleg: Annotated*. Minor teaches writing at the University of Iowa and lives in Iowa City.

# EARLY PRAISE FOR CAROUSEL

“Reading Sarah Minor's *Carousel*, I was a captivated student in a darkened room, enlightened by every page (or slide) of this surprising, learned and luminous book.”

—**Kate Briggs**, *The Long Form*

“Minor crafts remarkable studies in attention and distraction, brilliantly engaging with the complexities of bringing historical materials into current conditions of encounter.”

—**Johanna Drucker**, *Inventing the Alphabet*

“A dizzying ride past images stabbed into time. Minor's prose unspools before our eyes, as mesmerizing as the horizon rushing away from us in her rear-view mirror.”

—**Barbara Browning**, *The Miniaturists*

“*Carousel* invites us into the interior horizons of war, media, confinement, and creative impulse, (un)framed, artfully rendered in taut, resonant prose. A gaze-changer.”

—**Tisa Bryant**, *Residual*