

MEDIA RELEASE

Gwen

by **GOLDIE GOLDBLOOM**

ABOUT THE BOOK

In 1903, the artist Gwendolen Mary John travels from London to France with her companion Dorelia. Surviving on their wits and Gwen's raw talent, the young women walk from Calais to Paris. In the new century, the world is full of promise: it is time for Gwen to step out from the shadow of her overbearing brother Augustus and seek out the great painter and sculptor Auguste Rodin. It is time to be brave and visible, to love and be loved – and time perhaps to become a hero as the stain of anti-Semitism spreads across Europe.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Goldie Goldbloom grew up in Western Australia. She has received many national and international awards for her fiction and her nonfiction, and is author of *The Paperbark Shoe* and *You Lose These and Other Stories*. One of her stories was selected for inclusion in the *Best Australian Short Stories* of 2015. The National Endowment for the Arts (USA), and the Brown Foundation Fellows Program, Dora Maar House in Ménerbes (France), amongst others, have honoured her with fellowships. She is a professor of creative writing at the University of Chicago and the mother of eight children.

NOTES

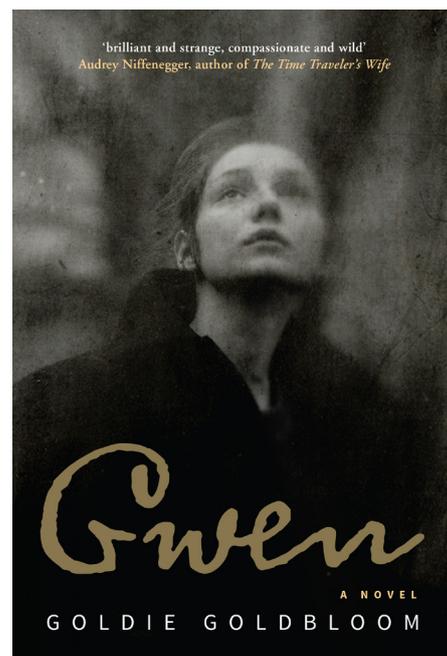
- Goldbloom is an expatriate Australian author taking the USA by storm. Her debut novel, *The Paperbark Shoe*, won the Association of Writers and Writing Programs' (AWP) Novel Award (2008) and the GLCA New Writers Award for Fiction (2011). It has been shortlisted out of some 1400 entries for the *Foreword Reviews* Book of the Year Award. It is published in the USA by Picador.
- *The Paperbark Shoe* was the *Sydney Morning Herald* Pick of the Week and was favourably reviewed around Australia. For her short fiction, Goldbloom was the recipient of the *Jerusalem Post* International Fiction Prize and the Hadassah Brandeis Award.
- *Gwen* is a historical fiction – the reimagined story of the artist Gwen John (1876–1939), sister of Augustus John, student, model and lover of Rodin, and great friend of Rainer Maria Rilke.

PRAISE FOR THE BOOK

'startling and beautiful; a powerful tribute to a great painter'
Audrey Niffenegger, author of *The Time Traveler's Wife*

'a ravishing achievement, a dazzling work of art in its own right'
Dominic Smith, author of the *New York Times* bestseller *The Last Painting of Sara de Vos*

'full of surprises, inspired sexual conjectures, moments of pathos and romance, illuminated by Goldbloom's vivid imagination'
Michael Holroyd, author of *Augustus John: The New Biography*



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CONTACT: Claire Miller
MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS
MANAGER

M +61 (0)419 837 841

T +61 (0)8 9430 6331

F +61 (0)8 9430 5242

E cmiller@fremantlepress.com.au

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t @FremantlePress

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