FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dos Gatos Press Releases *Redefining Beauty* by Karla K. Morton, 2010 Texas State Poet Laureate

Unique Poetry Collection Written during Morton’s Diagnosis, Treatment and Survival of Breast Cancer Provides Grit, Hope and Unfiltered Honesty

Austin, TX and Denton, TX – October 8, 2009 – Dos Gatos Press announces the release of *Redefining Beauty* by Karla K. Morton, 2010 Texas State Poet Laureate. *Redefining Beauty* is a collection of poems that came out of Morton’s journey through her own diagnosis, treatment and recovery from breast cancer. In a series of passionate and powerful poems, accompanied by photographer Walter Eagleton's black and white images, *Redefining Beauty* offers readers hope and comfort through its intimate candor, good-humored defiance and unfiltered honesty.

*Redefining Beauty* is available from the publisher at www.dosgatospress.org, at Amazon.com and at bookstores across Texas.

A lifelong poet, as well as a wife and mother of two, Morton (www.kkmorton.com) was diagnosed with breast cancer in May, 2008. In search of information to help her fight the disease, Morton turned to books. She found facts and statistics. She found self-help books. “But I needed more,” said Morton. “I needed some grit, a leather strap between my teeth. And when I couldn’t find what I needed, I simply wrote my way through it.”

Morton wrote her way through diagnosis, surgery, chemotherapy, radiation treatments and the PET scan that showed her to be cancer-free. She wrote her way through the loss of her hair, bone-crushing pain, insensitive sentiments, bald fashion statements and a fierce determination to live.
David Meischen and Scott Wiggerman, founders of Dos Gatos Press (publishers of the Texas Poetry Calendar) were so impressed by Morton’s work that they put Redefining Beauty on a fast track to publication. “We have never seen a book like this for those going through cancer or those with loved ones in the fight,” said Scott Wiggerman, lead editor for Dos Gatos Press. “The poems are powerful, playful and genuine. Anyone who knows Karla will immediately recognize her outgoing personality shining through the words, even in the darkest poems; those who don’t know her will sense that ‘survivor’ is not strong enough to describe her. Try ‘warrior’ instead.”

Larry Thomas, 20008 Texas State Poet Laureate, has this to say about Redefining Beauty: “Imbuing her poems with the intimacy, candor, and unfiltered emotional honesty of a diary, Morton clasps her reader’s hand and walks her through all five stages of grief: denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance.”

“Karla K. Morton is perseverance personified,” writes the Dallas Morning News.

Arts editor for the Fort Worth Business Press, Michael Price, notes that Redefining Beauty “declares a universal manifesto for the rage to live.”

Morton is frequently spotlighted in media interviews and, as 2010 Texas State Poet Laureate, is embarking upon a “Little Town, Texas Tour” she created to take poetry and the arts into high schools across Texas. Along the way, she will also speak at cancer centers, fundraising events and support groups, where she will share from Redefining Beauty. To learn about upcoming events and venues where Karla K. Morton will perform, speak or sign books, please visit www.kkmorton.com/events.html.

About Karla K. Morton

Karla K. Morton, the 2010 Texas State Poet Laureate, is a celebrated poet, author and storyteller. She is the author of Wee Cowrin' Timorous Beastie (a North Texas Book Festival Awards Finalist), Redefining Beauty and several upcoming books, including Becoming Superman, Names We’ve Never Known, and a collection of her works as part of the Poet Laureate series by the Texas Christian University Press (to be published in 2010). Ms. Morton’s poetry, which spans many subjects and forms, has also been published in a variety of literary journals, including descant, AmarilloBay, the Concho River Review, the Southwestern American Literature, Oak Bend Review, Wichita Falls Literary and Art Review, The Langdon Review of the Arts in Texas, the Texas Poetry Calendar, Illya’s Honey, Austin International Poetry Anthology, New Texas, Denton Writer’s League Anthology, and ARDENT. Additionally, she serves as a board member of the Greater Denton Arts Council, a founding member and board member of the Denton Poets’ Assembly (part of the Poetry Society of Texas) and as a member of the esteemed Western Writers of America, the Writer’s League of Texas and the Academy of American Poets. She has been featured on the Art of Living Gallery national television show (episode titled “Commemorating Life”) and loves to promote poetry, logging hundreds of miles across Texas, reading her work at such venues as schools, universities, bookstores, the Langdon Weekend, the Salado Highland Games and the North Texas Irish Festival. Morton was born in Fort Worth, graduated from Mansfield High School, holds a Journalism degree from Texas A&M University and currently resides in Denton, Texas, with her two children and husband. For more information, please visit www.kkmorton.com or www.facebook.com/pages/Karla-K-Morton/84970557709.

About Dos Gatos Press

Dos Gatos Press, publisher annually of the Texas Poetry Calendar, recently released the anthology Big Land, Big Sky, Big Hair, which collected the best poems from the calendar’s first decade. The Texas Poetry Calendar is in its 13th year. Dos Gatos Press sponsors poetry readings in venues across Texas. Founded by
poets and editors Scott Wiggerman and David Meischen, Dos Gatos Press is a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation organized for literary and educational purposes. The press works to make poetry more widely available to the reading public and to support writers of poetry—especially in Texas and the Southwest. For more information, please visit www.dosgatospress.org.

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High-resolution photos are available.