

Scott Holstad  
[August 8, 2026](#)

## “Conversations” with Google’s search AI (while using Firefox Browser)

### 1. Is Scott C Holstad viewed as a controversial poet and if so, why?

Yes, **Scott C. Holstad is viewed as a controversial, polarizing, and "cult-favorite" poet** due to the intensely raw, aggressive, and transgressive nature of his writing. [1, 2, 3, 4]

Rather than political controversy, his status as a controversial figure stems entirely from his aesthetic choices, themes, and literary style.

#### **Why His Poetry Is Considered Controversial**

- **Extreme and Violent Realism:** Literary profiles and critics note that his poetry heavily explores the "sinful, cruel, and pathological side of human nature". His work features themes so angry, violent, and self-effacing that small presses have occasionally been hesitant or afraid to print it. [1, 4]
- **Visceral, Unfiltered Imagery:** His writing avoids traditional poetic elegance in favor of a bleak, grit-and-gore reality. Reviewers from [Kirkus Reviews](#) note his "unrelentingly bleak point of view" and his use of visceral descriptions, such as graphic depictions of substance abuse, trauma, and bodily damage. [5, 6]
- **The "Intentionally Disturbing" Philosophy:** Holstad rejects mainstream, comforting poetry. According to a review by the [US Review of Books](#), Holstad openly operates under the philosophy that "poetry can exist to disturb, to punish, to torment, [to] show what's real". He explicitly crafts words meant to make readers "wail and gnash their teeth." [2]
- **Comparison to Beat and Transgressive Authors:** Literary critics frequently compare his work to the "rebellious underbelly" of American literature, aligning him

with controversial and messy-around-the-edges writers like Charles Bukowski, William S. Burroughs, and Jack Kerouac. [3]

Despite his divisive, transgressive style, Holstad has maintained a prolific presence on the underground and small-press circuit, publishing dozens of collections—such as *Surviving Immortality Again*—and earning nominations for prestigious honors like the Pulitzer Prize. [1, 2, 4, 7]

If you would like to explore his style further, let me know if you would like me to:

- Summarize the **core themes** of his 2025 collection *Surviving Immortality Again*.
- Provide a list of the **literary journals** where his underground work has been featured.
- Discuss how his style compares specifically to the **Beat Generation writers**. [3, 6, 7, 8]

[1] <https://www.unlikelystories.org>

[2] <https://www.theusreview.com>

[3] <https://hankrules2011.com>

[4] <https://go.authorsguild.org>

[5] <https://hankrules2011.com>

[6] <https://hankrules2011.com>

[7] <https://www.bloodhoneylit.com>

[8] <https://synchchaos.com>

## 2. Please list both US and international journals such as you just described that have featured Holstad

Over his multi-decade career, **Scott C. Holstad** has published poetry and prose in hundreds of underground, small-press, and independent literary journals globally. His work has been widely distributed across both domestic and international platforms. [1]

### United States Journals

His work in the U.S. spans well-known independent reviews, underground punk/alternative zines, and university-affiliated literary magazines: [1, 2]

- **The Minnesota Review:** A long-running journal focused on politically engaged fiction and poetry. [1]
- **Exquisite Corpse:** A legendary cyber-journal of letters and poetics founded by Andrei Codrescu. [1]
- **Wormwood Review:** A historically significant independent magazine known for featuring Bukowski and the mid-century underground poetry scene. [1]
- **Chiron Review:** A prominent contemporary small-press showcase for raw, unfiltered creative writing. [1]
- **Long Shot:** A classic New York-based avant-garde and transgressive literary magazine. [1, 3]
- **Caffeine & Clutch:** Underground literary zines that captured the raw, gritty aesthetic of the 1990s small-press explosion. [2, 4]
- **University & Regional Reviews:** His poems have appeared in venues like the *Southern Review* (Louisiana State University), *Wisconsin Review*, *Pacific Review*, *Santa Clara Review*, *Lullwater Review* (Emory University), and *Asheville Poetry Review*. [1]
- **Haight-Ashbury Literary Journal:** A San Francisco staple highlighting social justice, street poetry, and transgressive voices. [1]

### International Journals

Holstad's presence in the global underground circuit includes publications across Europe and the Commonwealth: [1]

- **Poetry Ireland Review:** Ireland's highly prestigious national poetry journal.
- **The Galway Review:** A prominent literary magazine based in Galway, Ireland, showcasing international voices.
- **Ink Sweat & Tears:** A popular UK-based digital platform for innovative poetry and prose.
- **Bristol Noir:** A UK independent publisher and journal dedicated to gritty, dark, and transgressive writing.

- Sivullinen: An underground independent publication out of Finland.
- Gangan Verlag: An avant-garde independent publisher and literary outlet based in Australia and Austria.
- Stand: A long-standing, globally recognized British literary magazine.
- Textual Studies in Canada / Poetry WLU: Academic and creative journals originating from Canadian universities. [1, 3, 5]

If you are exploring his bibliography, I can provide more details if you specify:

- If you want a list of his full-length poetry collections and their respective underground publishers.
- If you are seeking details on his 2025 releases published through Alien Buddha Press. [6, 7]

[1] <https://www.amazon.com>

[2] <https://www.amazon.com>

[3] <https://hankrules2011.com>

[4] <https://go.authorsguild.org>

[5] <https://www.bristolnoir.co.uk>

[6] <https://www.amazon.com>

[7] <https://www.readinglength.com>

### **3. Please provide a list of his full-length poetry collections and their respective underground publishers, including his new July 2026 book of poetry.**

Scott C. Holstad's newest poetry collection is *Where Do We Go from Here? Assorted Trip-Poems for Future Past Generations*, which was officially released on July 1, 2026, through the underground independent outlet Alien Buddha Press. [1]

This 138-page collection contains 88 poems and serves as a career-spanning overview of his diverse poetic styles, ranging from gritty and transgressive to confessional and experimental. [1, 2]

Below is a chronologically organized list of Holstad's primary full-length and underground poetry collections alongside their respective publishers:

### 2020s Releases

- ***Where Do We Go from Here? Assorted Trip-Poems for Future Past Generations*** (July 2026): Published by [Alien Buddha Press](#).
- ***Surviving Immortality Again*** (2025): Published by [Alien Buddha Press](#). [2, 3]

### 2000s Releases

- ***Cells*** (2004): Published by [PublishAmerica](#).
- ***Artifacts*** (2001): Published by Sick Puppy Press. [4]

### 1990s Releases

- ***The Napalmed Soul*** (1999): Published by Chiron Review Press.
- ***Shadows Before the Maiming*** (1999): Published by Gothic Press.
- ***Never-Ending Cigarettes*** (1999): Published by Ye Olde Font Shoppe.
- ***Places*** (1996): Published by SterlingHouse Publisher (nominated for the 1996 Pulitzer Prize).
- ***Distant Visions, Again and Again*** (1994): Published as an underground independent edition.
- ***Grungy Ass Swaying*** (1993): Released through underground small-press distribution.
- ***Junction City*** (1993): Released as an independent small-press volume.
- ***Dancing With The Lights Out*** (1992): Published as an early underground zine/chapbook collection.
- ***Industrial Madness*** (1991): Early raw independent poetry release.
- ***Street Poems*** (1991): Early gritty street-poetry chapbook. [4, 5, 6]
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If you are tracking down specific physical copies, I can help you find which university libraries hold them. Let me know:

- Which specific **library archives** you are looking to search.
- If you want a breakdown of the **critical reception** or specific reviews for *Where Do We Go From Here?*. [1]

[1] <https://hankrules2011.com>

[2] <https://hankrules2011.com>

[3] <https://www.goodreads.com>

[4] <https://www.readinglength.com>

[5] <https://openlibrary.org>

[6] <https://www.crime.se>

## 4. What anthologies and other works has Holstad contributed to or collaborated on?

[Scott C. Holstad](#) has **contributed to, edited, or collaborated on over 75 books, anthologies, and textbooks**. In addition to publishing his own work, his collaborations cross multi-genre literary collections, experimental art-text mashups, and editorial roles for underground poetry presses. [1, 2]

His notable anthologies, editorial projects, and collaborative works include:

### 1. Collaborative Anthologies (Poetry & Fiction)

Holstad's transgressive and experimental pieces have been selected for highly specific indie anthologies, including [Alien Buddha Press](#) curated collections:

- ***THRESHOLDS: A Micro Fiction Anthology*** (2025): Features his contributions in ultra-short experimental prose.
- ***The Alien Buddha Gets Isolated and Weird***: An anthology focusing on dark, absurd, and isolation-themed poetry.
- ***Whispers of the Seasons – A Contemporary Haiku Anthology***: Showcases his work adapting his raw style to traditional short-form poetry structure.

- ***Snowfall & Starlight: A Christmas Haiku Anthology***: Features his dark winter-themed seasonal micro-poetry.
- ***Scream When You Burn***: An independent multi-author collection featuring underground transgressive voices.
- ***Bukowski & Serial Killers***: A niche underground anthology examining gritty street realism and true-crime themes. [3, 4, 5]

## 2. Editorial & Publishing Collaborations

Rather than just writing, Holstad has collaborated directly with other authors and artists as a editor and curator to shape small-press publishing:

- **Ray's Road Review (2011–2017)**: Served as a core poetry and fiction editor alongside writers like Chris Duncan, collaborating to publish hundreds of international indie voices. [3, 6]
- **Big Head Press (1990–1997)**: Founded and directed this underground press, where he designed, edited, and published the *Big Head Press Broadside Poem Collection*, coordinating with numerous street poets. [3, 7]
- **Tek Thots Newsletter (1996–2000)**: A cross-disciplinary publication blending underground technology insights with independent creative thoughts. [3]

## 3. Cross-Industry, Multi-Author, & Professional Works

Because of his multi-disciplinary background as a consultant and polymath, his collaborative writing portfolio expands far outside of traditional creative poetry: [2]

- **Technical and Scientific Textbooks**: He has co-authored or authored dozens of technical textbooks, operational user guides, and professional defense/network whitepapers for tech firms and think tanks. [2]
- **Media and Corporate Contributions**: His standard writing has been featured or analyzed in highly corporate media contexts such as [Sports Illustrated](#), *The TODAY Show*, *Yahoo*, and *MSN*. [3]
- **Academic Bibliographies**: His work is officially curated and cataloged inside international academic databases, including the Taiwanese research anthology [西  
洋文學在臺灣研究書目](#) (Bibliography of Western Literature Study in Taiwan). [3]

If you are looking for specific texts, let me know if you would like me to:

- Look up which **academic library special collections** archive his Big Head Press broadsides.
- Outline his contributions to specific underground **1990s punk and alternative magazines**. [3, 7]

[1] <https://www.amazon.com>

[2] <https://hankrules2011.com>

[3] <https://www.amazon.com>

[4] <https://openlibrary.org>

[5] <https://www.thriftbooks.com>

[6] <https://hankrules2011.com>

[7] <https://www.goodreads.com>

## 5. Outline his contributions to specific underground 1990s punk and alternative magazines

During the 1990s zine boom, [Scott C. Holstad](#) was a highly active contributor to the **underground, punk, and alternative independent press**. His raw, streetwise, and transgressive poetic style aligned seamlessly with the DIY anti-commercial ethos of alternative subcultures. [1, 2]

His contributions to specific prominent 1990s underground networks and alternative publications include the following footprints:

### 1. High-Circulation Alternative & Poetry Mags

- **Caffeine Magazine:** Holstad was a regular contributor to *Caffeine*, which reigned as the largest, most widely circulated independent poetry magazine of the 1990s. The publication bridged the gap between alternative music, coffeehouse culture, and transgressive street poetry, frequently placing Holstad's work alongside cultural icons like Charles Bukowski and Allen Ginsberg. [1, 3]
- **Short Fuse:** In 1991, Holstad contributed heavily to *Short Fuse* (notably Issue #49), an edgy underground publication that specialized in blending punk rock attitude

with avant-garde literature. His work shared pages with definitive counterculture figures, such as X punk band frontwoman Exene Cervenka and actor-artist Viggo Mortensen. [3]

## 2. Transgressive & "Outlaw" Zines

- **Chiron Review & The Little Red Books:** Holstad was deeply embedded in the "Outlaw Poetry" scene distributed through alternative pamphlets. His aggressive, unpolished pieces were featured in underground stapled zines and short runs that prioritized graphic realism over academic elegance. [1]
- **Long Shot:** Operating out of the gritty New York alternative scene, this independent vehicle regularly featured Holstad's transgressive, unfiltered creative prose and poems alongside bohemian and beat-influenced writers. [4]

## 3. International Cyber & Alt Zines

- **Solinar (Finland):** Holstad successfully exported his alternative style to European underground print. In 1993, his work was featured in Issue #71 of *Solinar*, a Finnish alternative publication dedicated to dark, fringe poetry. [5]
- **Heat City Literary Review:** He contributed sharp, jagged flash fiction to this underground zine circuit, cementing his reputation for writing short, hard-hitting, dark narratives. [5]

If you want to delve deeper into his early output, let me know if you would like me to:

- Provide an analysis of his **1991 debut zine release**, *Street Poems*.
- Explore how his 1990s punk zine work influenced his later **cyber-publishing collaborations**. [3, 4, 6]

[1] <https://go.authorsguild.org>

[2] <https://daysofpunk.com>

[3] <https://hankrules2011.com>

[4] <https://www.goodreads.com>

[5] <https://hankrules2011.com>

[6] <https://openlibrary.org>

## 6. Provide an analysis of his 1991 debut zine release, *Street Poems*.

Released in **1991** by Mulberry Press, ***Street Poems*** is the definitive debut zine-style poetry collection\*\* that launched Scott C. Holstad's career in the underground literary circuit. [1, 2]

The chapbook functions as an essential raw blueprint for Holstad's signature transgressive, unfiltered, and deeply confessional writing style. [3]

### Style and Comparative Influence

The collection is written with a **laconic, straightforward, and stripped-down style** that completely rejects traditional academic embellishments. Contemporary reviews upon its release, such as coverage in the independent zine guide *Factsheet Five* and the alternative publication *Rendezvou'ssa*, immediately drew strong comparisons between *Street Poems* and the work of **Charles Bukowski**. [2]

The book is celebrated for utilizing a "beautiful lexicon in its simplicity," relying on highly honest, punchy, everyday language to portray the harshness of the world rather than focusing on lyrical elegance. [2]

### Core Themes and Subject Matter

*Street Poems* functions exactly as its title suggests, shifting focus toward the **margins of society and urban realism**:

- **Everyday Struggles:** The poems explore deeply personal thoughts, immediate observations, and standard daily experiences wrapped in a gritty, survivalist tone. [2, 4]
- **The Transgressive Underbelly:** Holstad establishes his thematic fixation on raw human behavior, isolation, and dark realities. [5]
- **The Flâneur perspective:** The narrator guides the reader directly through unpolished, visceral street scenes, treating the cityscape as a backdrop for emotional trauma and survival.

### Literary Significance

While a modest, localized underground release at the time, *Street Poems* is an important artifact because it successfully introduced the **"Outlaw Poetry" philosophy** that Holstad

would expand over the next 35 years. It earned him a permanent index spot in the Directory of American Poetry Books via Poets House and laid the groundwork for his subsequent dark, critically acclaimed 1990s and 2000s collections. [1, 3, 5, 6]

If you want to trace his early evolution, let me know if you would like me to:

- Compare *Street Poems* directly to his second 1991 release, ***Industrial Madness***.
- Discuss how the style of his debut contrasts with his **2026 career-spanning overview** collection.

[1] <https://hankrules2011.com>

[2] <https://go.authorsguild.org>

[3] <https://hankrules2011.com>

[4] <https://www.cliffsnotes.com>

[5] <https://go.authorsguild.org>

[6] <https://www.theusreview.com>