

BY JIM GRIMSLEY

# THE CARTOGRAPHY OF MOIRA CRONE:

## Mapping Visionary Fiction and Fantastic Futures

COURTESY OF MOIRA CRONE



It was Dorothy Allison who introduced me to Moira Crone during a meeting of the Fellowship of Southern Writers at which Moira was awarded the Robert Penn Warren Award. Here, Dorothy told me, is a writer everybody ought to know about. When I read her work I understood why. Her first novel, *A Period of Confinement*, is an incomparable work of impeccable prose. In books like *Dream State*, *What Gets into Us*, and *The Not Yet*, she has mapped out a visionary territory of fiction in which the here-and-now lies side by side with possible futures. Writing short stories, novels, and short stories that become novels, she claims a space for her writing in which she moves effortlessly from literary fiction like her early work to a speculative work like *The Not Yet*, her hypnotic take on a future New Orleans, shortlisted in 2012 for the Philip K. Dick Prize for science fiction paperback of the year. Encountering her as a writer has been one of the highlights of my reading life.<sup>1</sup>

with art by Moira Crone

ABOVE Moira Crone

<sup>1</sup> Moira Crone, *A Period of Confinement* (Putnam, 1986); *Dream State: Stories* (UP of Mississippi, 1995); *What Gets Into Us: Stories* (UP of Mississippi, 2006); *The Not Yet* (U of New Orleans P, 2012).