

# LETTER FROM THE DIRECTORS

There is much to pour over in this newsletter, so we will get to the point: Our spring calendar is fire. Where to start, when opportunities abound and several of the most inventive, relevant, rip-your-mind-open-to-the-universe poets, artists, and musicians creating today will soon grace our gallery.

Let's begin close to home: Milwaukee poets Jim Chapson, Tyler Farrell, Kimberly Blaeser, Roberto Harrison, Angela Voras-Hills, and KP Kaszubowski, as well as our own Lewis Freedman and volunteer Oliver Antoni Krawczyk, are all on this season's docket—presenting readings, celebrating new books, and frequently appearing alongside poets visiting from elsewhere.

As for the illustrious out-of-towners, Evan Kennedy, mimi tempestt, Garrett Caples, and 2022 Pulitzer Prize Finalist in Poetry Will Alexander will make the trek to Milwaukee for a City Lights installment of our Small Press Appreciation series; Navajo Nation Poet Laureate Laura Tohe and Elise Paschen join us for *Native Writers in the 21st Century*; Mexican poet and journalist in exile Dolores Dorantes, writer and Marfa Book Company owner Tim Johnson, and poet and translator Lynn Xu will visit us for our next Unwriting Borders program; Stacy Szymaszek and Kimberly Alidio are coming for our first *Poetry in the Park* of the season; while National Book Award Finalist Peter Gizzi, prolific and singular Dara Barrois/Dixon (formerly Wier), and poet and award-winning translator Rachel Galvin will offer not only readings but also some truly nextlevel workshops. (Both Gizzi and Barrois/Dixon teach in UMass-Amherst's acclaimed MFA program, and Galvin for University of Chicago.)

And that's not all. In June, our longtime dream of hosting poet, critic, and theorist Fred Moten comes true in a performance combining poetry and music, dually billed as part of our *Through Lines* lyrical poetry and *Alternating Currents Live* concert series. Moten will be joined by collaborators, the poet Ken Taylor and double bassist Brandon López. *ACL* will also welcome back Ernest Dawkins's Boglifter Project and the latest configuration of The Bridge, featuring French and Chicago instrumentalists; while Formations will host three concerts featuring local

improvisers including Wilhelm Matthies and Feral Kid Theory, among others.

Also noteworthy: A free workshop along the Milwaukee River led by Emerging Poet Fellow Ben Binversie along with artist and naturalist Martina Patterson (mars), our second annual Milwaukee Youth Poet Laureate Finals event at the Milwaukee Public Library, and of course our annual youth Poetry Camp.

Finally, if you have yet to view Darlene Wesenberg Rzezotarski's extraordinary solo exhibition *Everything Has a Story*, we encourage you to make it a top priority.

There is more (there always is), but it's time to release you into the possibilities. We look forward to seeing you this spring among the flowers.

With love from all of us at Woodland Pattern,

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Jenny Gropp & Laura Solomon Executive Directors

# ON THE COVER



"Dream of Elephants" from *Everything Has a Story* 

# SPECIAL EVENTS

# MILWAUKEE YOUTH POET LAUREATE FINALS



Sat. May 18 | 2:00 pm-3:30 pm CDT

\*IN PERSON\* at the Centennial Hall of Milwaukee Central Library (733 N. Eighth St., Milwaukee, WI 53233)

Join us as we name Milwaukee's second Youth Poet Laureate! Hosted by Milwaukee Public Library and emceed by former Wisconsin Poet Laureate and Woodland Pattern Board Member Margaret Rozga, the program will feature performances by our three finalists, along with an appearance and reading by Milwaukee's inaugural Youth Poet Laureate, Emily Igwike.

Judges for this year's competition include poet and PhD candidate in Creative Writing at UW-Milwaukee Sean Enfield; Milwaukee Arts Board member and Manager of Afterschool Arts & Humanities at Milwaukee Recreation April Heding; and poet and Director of Woodland Pattern's Milwaukee Queer Writing Project CJ Scruton.

# **TEEN POETRY FEST**

Sat. Apr. 27 | 2:00-4:00 pm CDT
\*IN PERSON\* at Mitchell Street Library
906 W. Historic Mitchell Street

Calling all youth poets—join us at the Mitchell Street Library for a celebration of poetry with an Open Mic. You'll also have the chance to record your work in the Northwestern Mutual Foundation Studio M Makerspace Sound Booth, decorate a journal, create Black Out Poetry buttons—

and more! Enjoy coffee from Ay! Chihuahua and light refreshments.

Hosted by Brit Nicole and Milwaukee Youth Poet Laureate Emily Igwike

# **MILWAUKEE ZINE FEST**

Sat. Apr. 20 | 10:30 am-4:30 pm CDT

\*IN PERSON\* at the Central Branch of the Milwaukee Public Library (814 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53233)

Milwaukee Zine Fest celebrates and promotes zine culture, DIY creative literary work, small-press publishing, and other independent, self-created publications in magazine-like format.

Founded in 2008, MZF is an annual explosion of zinefocused wonder in the form of a boisterous festival featuring over 100 vendors from across the country. It's always free to attend, and always super fun.

The single-day event is held at the Central Branch of Milwaukee Public Library, and packed with opportunities to explore and purchase various forms of DIY and independent publishing presented by diverse artists, writers, illustrators, photographers, poets—and more!

The festival also features hands-on experiences and workshops throughout the day. Stop by to test a typewriter, make a letterpress print, construct a flipbook, or learn about zine culture, history, and social impact.

MZF is a program of The Bindery in partnership with the Milwaukee Public Library. The Bindery runs additional year-round zine programming including a collective zine publishing house and communal retail for zinesters.

# LOCUST STREET FESTIVAL OF MUSIC AND ART

Sun. Jun. 9 | 11:30 am-8 pm

The Locust Street Festival is back for 2024 and will again include the Locust Street Beer Run by Lakefront Brewery! 6 live music stages, local vendors, artists, food, and great beer.

Be sure to stop by Woodland Pattern, where we'll be holding our Community Ties Raffle (as per tradition), offering 10% off on books, and hosting additional activities to be announced!

#### **POETRY CAMP**



M-F, Jun. 17-21 | 8:30 am-3:30 pm CDT (Week 1)
M-F, Jun. 24-28 | 8:30 am-3:30 pm CDT (Week 2)
\*IN PERSON\* at Woodland Pattern

Woodland Pattern's Poetry Camp is a free-of-cost, five-day, inter-arts camp aimed at helping young people embrace their own stories and feel confident about telling them! Each day includes a light breakfast, two hours of focused writing, a workshop with a guest artist, lunch, and a field trip.

Throughout the week, students write and participate in a range of creative activities, working not only with poets and spoken word artists, but also with actors, performance coaches, musicians, and visual artists. By the end of the week, students have produced various art works and created a body of new writing that is performed before the community and commemorated in print. At the end of camp, each student also receives a \$100 Woodland Pattern gift card to purchase books of their choosing to help build their personal libraries.

Poetry Camp is open to Milwaukee youth entering grades 6–12. Both weeks will offer a very similar experience. To register or for more information, please visit woodlandpattern.org/youth.

# READINGS + CONVERSATIONS



**Thur. Apr. 4** | **7 pm CDT** (\$Give What You Can) **\*IN PERSON\*** at Woodland Pattern

**Poetry Reading** featuring **JIM CHAPSON** and **TYLER FARRELL**, and celebrating two recent **Adjunct Press** chapbooks, *Milwaukee Liddy Hagiography* by Tyler Farrell, and *Walk A Little Differently Up Hill* by James Liddy.

Born in Honolulu in 1944, **JIM CHAPSON** attended San Francisco State University and received his MA in 1968. With his partner, the Irish poet James Liddy (1934–2008), he moved to Milwaukee in 1976 and taught in the UW-Milwaukee English Department as an adjunct until 2016. He served as Poet Laureate of the City of Milwaukee from 2014 to 2016. He loves queens, corgis, and the contemplative good life.

**TYLER FARRELL** was born in Illinois; grew up in Milwaukee, and was educated by the Jesuits at Marquette High School and Creighton University, and by layfolk at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He has published poems, essays, and reviews in many periodicals and anthologies and a biographical essay for James Liddy's *Selected Poems* (Arlen House, 2011).

Farrell has three collections of poems published with Salmon Poetry: *Ireland: Tethered to the Earth* (2008), *The Land of Give and Take* (2012) and *Stichomythia* (2018). His recent works, *Milwaukee Liddy Hagiography* (2024) and *Walk a Little Differently Uphill: Letters and Poems* of James Liddy (2024) were both published by Adjunct Press. Farrell (whose name is Irish for "courageous") is an

Associate Professor of English at Marquette University where he teaches writing, poetry, Irish and British literature, drama, and film. He also leads two study abroad programs to Ireland in summer and London's West End in January. He lives in Madison with his wife Joan and two sons, Holden and Linus.



**Fri.** & **Sat. Apr. 12** & **13** (\$Give What You Can) \***HYBRID\*** In person at Woodland Pattern and livestreaming via Crowdcast

A Weekend with City Lights Publishers: Join us for two readings and a conversation featuring City Lights authors WILL ALEXANDER, ROBERTO HARRISON, EVAN KENNEDY, and MIMI TEMPESTT, with events hosted and moderated by GARRETT CAPLES. Presented as part of our Visions in Publishing / Small Press Appreciation series with support from the NEA.

## Fri. Apr. 12 | 7 pm CDT

A poetry reading featuring EVAN KENNEDY and MIMI TEMPESTT

## Sat. Apr. 13 | 2 pm CDT

A conversation with WILL ALEXANDER, ROBERTO HARRISON, EVAN KENNEDY, and MIMI TEMPESTT about histories of small press publishing and bookstores as sites of community gathering, among other topics.

## Sat. Apr. 13 | 7 pm CDT

A reading featuring ROBERTO HARRISON and WILL ALEXANDER

WILL ALEXANDER has published over two dozen books in a variety of genres and has earned many honors and awards including a Whiting Fellowship for Poetry, a California Arts Council Fellowship, the PEN/Oakland Josephine Miles Award, a Before Columbus Foundation American Book Award, and the 2016 Jackson Poetry Prize. He has also exhibited his artwork in group and solo shows. His work is known for its visionary, oracular surrealism and the influence of Negritude. Among his publications are Refractive Africa (New Directions, 2021/Granta, 2022), which was a finalist for the 2022 Pulitzer Prize in Poetry, The Combustion Cycle (Roof, 2021), Across the Vapor Gulf (New Directions, 2017), and The Sri Lankan Loxodrome (New Directions, 2009). His book Compression & Purity (2011) was volume five in the City Lights Spotlight Poetry Series. He is currently the poetin-residence at Beyond Baroque in Venice, California. He has lived his entire life in Los Angeles.

ROBERTO HARRISON's poetry books include *Tropical Lung: exi(s)t(s)* (Omnidawn, 2021), *Tropical Lung: Mitologia Panameña* (Nion Editions, 2020), *Yaviza* (Atelos, 2017), *Bridge of the World* (Litmus Press, 2017), *culebra* (Green Lantern Press, 2016), *bicycle* (Noemi Press, 2015), *Counter Daemons* (Litmus Press, 2006), *Os* (subpress, 2006), as well as many chapbooks. With Andrew Levy, Harrison edited the poetry journal *Crayon* from 1997 to 2008. He was also the editor of Bronze Skull Press which published over 20 chapbooks, including the work of many Midwestern poets. Most recently, Harrison served as a co-editor for the *Resist Much/Obey Little: Inaugural Poems to the Resistance* anthology. He was the Milwaukee Poet Laureate from 2017–2019 and is also a visual artist. He lives in Milwaukee with his wife, the poet Brenda Cárdenas.

EVAN KENNEDY is a poet and bicyclist. He is the author of I Am, Am I, to Trust the Joy That Joy Is No More or Less There Now Than Before (Roof Books), Jerusalem Notebook (O'clock Press), The Sissies (Futurepoem), Terra Firmament (Krupskaya), Shoo-Ins to Ruin (Gold Wake Press), and Us Them Poems (Book\*hug). He runs the occasional press, Dirty Swan Projects, and was born in Beacon, New York, in 1983. He lives in San Francisco, California.

**mimi tempestt** (she/they) is a multidisciplinary artist, writer, and daughter of California. She has an MA in Literature from Mills College and is currently a doctoral candidate in the Creative/Critical PhD in Literature at UC-Santa Cruz. Her first book, *the monumental misrememberings*, was

published with Co-Conspirator Press/The Feminist Center for Creative Work in 2020. In 2021, she was selected for participation in the Lambda Literary Writers Retreat for Emerging LGBTQ Voices & Writers, and was a Creative Fellow at The Ruby in San Francisco. Her works can be found in *Foglifter, Interim Poetics*, and at the Studio Museum in Harlem. A native of Los Angeles, she currently resides in Berkeley, CA.

**GARRETT CAPLES** is a poet, journalist, and poetry editor at City Lights Books. He curates the City Lights Spotlight Poetry Series. He is the author of numerous books of poetry which include *Complications*, *Power Ballads*, *Retrievals*, *Lovers of Today*, *The Garrett Caples Reader*, amongst others. Together with Andrew Joron and Nancy Peters he edited *The Collected Poems of Philip Lamantia*.

Fri. Apr. 19 | 7 pm CDT (Open to the public)
\*HYBRID\* In person at Woodland Pattern and
livestreaming via Crowdcast

United We Read is the UW-Milwaukee Graduate Creative Writing Program's student-faculty reading series that takes place in venues throughout the community. For this installment in the series, Creative Writing Professor and poet BRENDA CÁRDENAS will be joined by graduate students BECK BEHNKE, SEAN ENFIELD, and TY NEWCOMB.



Wed. Apr. 24 | 7 pm CDT (\$Give What You Can)
\*HYBRID\* In person at Woodland Pattern and
livestreaming via Crowdcast

Poetry Reading featuring LAURA TOHE, current Navajo Nation Poet Laureate and author of *Tseyi / Deep in the Rock* (University of Arizona Press, 2005), **KIMBERLY BLAESER**, author of *Ancient Light* (University of Arizona

Press, 2024), and **ELISE PASCHEN**, author of *Tallchief* (Magic City Books, 2023). Presented as part of our series *Native Writers in the 21st Century* with support from the NEA.

LAURA TOHE is Diné, Sleepy-Rock People clan and born for the Bitter Water People clan. She is the current Navajo Nation Poet Laureate. Her books include No Parole Today, Making Friends with Water, Tséyi / Deep in the Rock, and Code Talker Stories. With Heid Erdrich, she edited the anthology Sister Nations: Native American Women Writers on Community and her commissioned libretto, Enemy Slayer: A Navajo Oratorio and Nahasdzáán in the Glittering World, made its world premiere in France in 2008. Among her awards are the 2020 Academy of American Poetry Fellowship; 2019 American Indian Festival of Writers Award; Wordcraft Circle of Native American Writers and Storytellers; the Joy Harjo & the Lila Wallace Reader's Digest Fund Award; and the Arizona Book Association's Glyph Award for Best Poetry and Best Book. Tohe is Professor Emerita with Distinction from Arizona State University.

KIMBERLY BLAESER, past Wisconsin Poet Laureate and founding director of Indigenous Nations Poets, is the author of six poetry collections including Ancient Light, Copper Yearning, and the bilingual Résister en dansant/ Ikwe-niimi: Dancing Resistance. Her photographs, pictopoems, and ekphrastic pieces have appeared in exhibits such as "Visualizing Sovereignty," and "No More Stolen Sisters." An enrolled member of the White Earth Nation, she is an Anishinaabe activist and environmentalist. An MFA faculty member at the Institute of American Indian Arts and a Professor Emerita at UW-Milwaukee, Blaeser currently serves as a Vassar College Tatlock Fellow and the 2024 Mackey Chair in Creative Writing at Beloit College. Her accolades include a Lifetime Achievement Award from Native Writers' Circle of the Americas. She lives in rural Wisconsin and in a seasonal cabin near the BWCA wilderness.

**ELISE PASCHEN**'s next book of poetry, *Blood Wolf Moon*, will be published in 2025. An enrolled member of the Osage Nation, she is the author of six poetry collections, most recently, *Tallchief*. As an undergraduate at Harvard, she received the Garrison Medal for poetry. She holds M.Phil. and D.Phil. degrees from Oxford University. Her poems have been published widely, including in *Poetry*, the *New Yorker*, *A Norton Anthology of Native Nations Poetry*, and *Best* 

American Poetry. She has edited or co-edited numerous anthologies, including *The Eloquent Poem*, and the *New York Times* bestseller, *Poetry Speaks*. Paschen teaches in the MFA Writing Program at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

#### Thur. Apr. 25 | 2:30 pm CDT

\*IN PERSON\* at Golda Meir Library Conference Center on the UW-Milwaukee campus

Join us for a **conversation** with author and librettist **LAURA TOHE** and poet and photographer **KIMBERLY BLAESER** about interdisciplinary practices and collaborations. Both poets have engaged in several inter-arts projects, including Tohe's librettos and Blaeser's photography and pictopoems, among others. Each poet will read some of her own poems during the conversation as well.

Thur. Apr. 25 | 7 pm (Open to the public)
\*HYBRID\* In person at UWM (Curtin Hall, Room 175)

Join our friends at the UWM Creative Writing Program for the Spring 2024 Visiting Writer-Boudreaux Poet Series featuring NICKY BEER, author of *Real Phonies and Genuine Fakes* (Milkweed, 2022). Sponsored by The Boudreaux Foundation and UWM English Department. This event will also be livestreamed here: https://bit.ly/49QWvDI

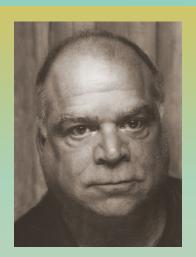


NICKY BEER is a bi/queer writer and the author of *Real Phonies and Genuine Fakes* (Milkweed, 2022), winner of the 2023 Lambda Literary Award for Bisexual Poetry. She has received honors from the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, MacDowell, the Poetry Foundation, and the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference. She has also led workshops,

craft classes, and craft talks for the Indiana University Writers' Conference, the Minnesota Northwoods Writers Conference, the Yale Young Writers' Workshop, and more. She is an Associate Professor at the University of Colorado–Denver, where she is a poetry editor for *Copper Nickel*.

Thur. May 2 | 7 pm CDT (\$Give What You Can)
\*HYBRID\* In person at Woodland Pattern and
livestreaming via Crowdcast

**Poetry Reading** featuring **PETER GIZZI**, author of *Fierce Elegy* (Wesleyan University Press, 2023).



PETER GIZZI is the author of several collections of poetry, most recently Fierce Elegy (2023), Now It's Dark (2020), and Archeophonics, a finalist for the National Book Award (2016), all from Wesleyan. In 2020 Carcanet published Sky Burial: New and Selected Poems and later this year, Penguin UK will bring out an expanded edition of Fierce Elegy. His honors include

fellowships from The Rex Foundation, The Howard Foundation, The Foundation for Contemporary Arts, The Guggenheim Foundation, and The Judith E. Wilson Visiting Fellowship in Poetry at the University of Cambridge. Editing projects have included o·blēk: a journal of language arts (1987–1993); The Exact Change Yearbook (Exact Change/Carcanet, 1995); The House That Jack Built: The Collected Lectures of Jack Spicer (Wesleyan, 1998); and with the late Kevin Killian, My Vocabulary Did This to Me: The Collected Poetry of Jack Spicer (Wesleyan, 2008). He teaches poetry and poetics at the University of Massachusetts—Amherst.



Thur. May 9 | 7 pm CDT (\$Give What You Can)
\*IN PERSON\* at Woodland Pattern

**Poetry Reading & Conversation** featuring **DOLORES DORANTES**, author of *Copy* (Wave Books, 2022), and poet, artist, and editor, **TIM JOHNSON**. Curated and hosted

by **LYNN XU**, author of *And Those Ashen Heaps That Cantilevered Vase of Moonlight* (Wave, 2022). Presented as part of our series *Unwriting Borders* with support from the NEA.

**DOLORES DORANTES** is the Executive Director of Mujer Migrante, publisher of *Hoja Frugal*, a journalist, writer, therapist, poet, performer, and sacred animal. She is a Mexican born in the mountains of Veracruz in 1973 but raised in Ciudad Juárez, right next door to El Paso, which is just across the US border. In 2011, she fled her country and was granted political asylum in Los Angeles. Dorantes is Black and Nahua Indigenous on her mother's side, Spaniard and mestiza on her father's side. Recent books translated into English are Copy (Wave Books, 2022), The River, a collaboration with the artist Zoe Leonard (Gato Negro Ediciones, 2019), and Style (Kenning Editions, 2016). Her socio-cultural writings and political-social reflections, along with the majority of her books, are part of the commons at www.doloresdorantes.blogspot.com. She believes in a United Latin America.

**TIM JOHNSON** is a poet, artist, and editor based in Marfa, Texas. With his partner Caitlin Murray he owns and operates the Marfa Book Company through which he oversees an exhibition, publication, film, music, and performance series. His poems and translations have appeared in many publications, including the *Paris Review*; *Eights*, a survey of experimental writing; and Adventures, edited by David Senior. He has curated and presented exhibitions by Rosa Barba, Santa Barraza, James Benning, Luis Camnitzer, lan Hamilton Finlay, Van Hanos, Roni Horn, Aaron Flint Jamison, and Charles Mary Kubricht. He edited Sensuous Thoughts: Essays on the Works of Donald Judd, a selection of essays by the art historian Richard Shiff, for Hatje Cantz in 2020; and he coedited the publication, The Present Order: Writings on the Work of Ian Hamilton Finlay, with Caitlin Murray in 2010.

Born in Shanghai, **LYNN XU** is the author of *And Those Ashen Heaps That Cantilevered Vase of Moonlight* (Wave, 2022) and *Debts & Lessons* (Omnidawn, 2013) and the chapbooks: *June* (Corollary Press, 2006) and *Tournesol* (Compline, 2021). She has performed cross-disciplinary works at the MOCA Tucson, Guggenheim Museum, The Renaissance Society, Rising Tide Projects, and 300 S. Kelly Street. She teaches at Columbia University, co-edits Canarium Books, and lives with her family in New York City and West Texas.



**Sat. May 11 | 7 pm CDT** (\$Give What You Can)

\*HYBRID\* In person at Woodland Pattern and livestreaming via Crowdcast

Poetry Reading featuring RACHEL GALVIN, author of *Uterotopia* (Persea Books, 2023), and ANGELA VORAS-HILLS, author of *Louder Birds* (Pleiades, 2020).

**RACHEL GALVIN**'s newest book of poems, *Uterotopia*, is just out from Persea Books in 2023. Galvin is the author of *Elevated Threat Level*, a finalist for the National Poetry Series, and *Pulleys & Locomotion*. She is the translator of Raymond Queneau's Hitting the Streets, winner of the Scott Moncrieff Translation Prize, and co-translator of Oliverio Girondo's Decals: Complete Early Poetry, a finalist for the National Translation Award. Her current translation project is supported by a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship. Her work appears in journals and anthologies including Best American Experimental Writing 2020, Best American Poetry 2020, Bennington Review, Boston Review, Colorado Review, Fence, Gulf Coast, Harvard Review, McSweeney's, The Nation, the New Yorker, and Ploughshares, Plume, and Poetry. She is a co-founder of Outranspo, a creative translation collective (outranspo. com), and teaches at the University of Chicago.

ANGELA VORAS-HILLS' first book, Louder Birds (Pleiades, 2020), was awarded the Lena-Miles Wever Todd Poetry Prize. Her writing has appeared or is forthcoming in The Sun, Kenyon Review Online, Prairie Schooner, Best New Poets, and American Poetry Review, among other journals and anthologies. She has received support from The Sustainable Arts Foundation, Key West Literary Seminar, and Writers' Room of Boston. She lives with her family in Milwaukee, where she is a PhD student at the University of Wisconsin.

# STACY SZYMASZEK

#### ESSAY 11

I would not

have guessed

that Wren

and I would become friends

I thought her attentions were strictly

apple-motivated but she comes to me even

when I am not presenting an apple

which to her probably looks like

a brown orb as cows perceive reds

and greens in tones of brown

she puts her head down and

lets me scratch behind her ears

between her eyes and the small of her horns

I learned that each birth leaves

one ring on their horns

when they are allowed to keep

their horns Wren has at least

five rings on her very tall horns which will

continue to grow as long as she lives

they are full of air space that connect to her sinuses

yesterday she took the apple but let it fall out of her

mouth twice then followed me into the sun and closed

her eyes I could hear her breathing so

started breathing with her as I had been

tense all day she started lightly snoring

still adjusting her ears to the sound of the

piglets screeching over old bread

the calf Wren is carrying was sired by a bull

named Hansel his sires have been

stillborn or coming out with "bad placements"

giving the cows difficult births so

I worry for Wren who is due in January.

#### **ESSAY 16**

My friend wrote me a letter we are both poets
over the age of 50 she used to visit her
aunt who was a nun who lived in a hut in the middle of a cow
pasture my friend became friends with one
of the cows she and her aunt
talked about the sorrowful life of the cow
always warding off the intense interest of the bull it reminded
me of lines in Marianne Moore's poem "Marriage"

I am such a cow,

if I had a sorrow,

I should feel it a long time;

Today at the end of my "rounds" visiting

the cows I love I saw the shipping trailer pulled up

to the milking barn I could see the tips of one cow's

horns already in there I saw a farmer standing silently at the threshold

I knew from talking with her she doesn't like this part

so I stood back also in silence then I pressed my face

against the dirty barn window to see three other

farmers silently leading a second cow on board

she didn't resist it was snowing and so quiet

till the metallic boom of her hoofs

hit the trailer floor to love

the herd is to accept change to cherish

each day I get to be kind to a cow I felt on the verge

of crying not because I was friends with these two

but because I remember what I heard about Donna

how she resisted getting in the trailer and that

some cows have prolonged their lives by

refusing.



Wed. May 29 | 7 pm CDT (\$Give What You Can)
\*HYBRID\* In person at Woodland Pattern and
livestreaming via Crowdcast

Poetry Reading featuring DARA BARROIS/DIXON, author of Extremely Expensive Mystical Experiences for Astronauts (Conduit Books & Ephemera, 2024), and KP KASZUBOWSKI, author of somnieee (Vegatarian Alcoholic Press, 2019). Presented as part of Through Lines, a series dedicated to innovative lyric poetry, with support from the NEA.

DARA BARROIS/DIXON's books include Blood Hook & Eye, The Book of Knowledge, Hat on α Pond, Voyages in English, You Good Thing, Reverse Rapture, in the still of the night, Tolstoy Killed Anna Karenina, and the brand new Extremely Expensive Mystical Experiences for Astronauts. She's taught poetry workshops and seminars across the US, at University of Pittsburgh, Hollins University, University of Alabama, University of Utah, University of Massachusetts-Amherst, University of Montana, University of Texas at Austin, Santa Fe Writing Conference, Aspen Writing Conference, Emory University's Summer Writing Conference, Vermont Studio Center, and for the Juniper Summer Writing Institute, which she founded in 2006 at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. Her poems have been awarded The Poetry Center Book Award, American Poetry Review's Jerome Shestack Poetry Prize, and supported by Lannan Foundation, Guggenheim Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, and Massachusetts Cultural Council fellowships. She founded factory hollow press which focuses on chapbooks. She lives in factory hollow in western Massachusetts. She formerly published as Dara Wier.

KP KASZUBOWSKI (she/her) is a poet and filmmaker. Her debut poetry collection *somnieeee* was published in 2019 by Vegetarian Alcoholic Press, and her debut feature film *Ringolevio* premiered in 2020 at Dances With Films in Los Angeles. As narrative designer and producer, her first feature length documentary *My First and Last Film* (director: Tracey Thomas) premiered in 2019. Her previous poetry has been published (as Kristin Peterson) by pitymilk press, *Great Lakes Review*, dancing girl press, *Juked, Flag + Void, ICHNOS*, and elsewhere. She earned her MFA in Creative Writing through Eastern Washington University in 2023. She lives close enough to the Lake to pretend she can hear it. When she lived in Spokane, she could hear Lake Michigan there too.

**Thur. Jun. 6 | 7 pm CDT** (\$Give What You Can)

\*HYBRID\* In person at Woodland Pattern and livestreaming via Crowdcast

Join us for an **interdisciplinary exploration** of poetry and music with **FRED MOTEN** (voice/poetry) & **BRANDON LÓPEZ** (double bass), and **KEN TAYLOR** (voice/poetry). Presented as part of both our *Alternating Currents Live* series for improvised music and our poetry series *Through Lines*, with support from the NEA.

Read more about this event under CONCERTS.



**Tue. Jun. 11 | 6:30 pm CDT** (\$Give What You Can) Rain date: Wed. June 12

\*IN PERSON\* at Juneau Park, 900 N. Prospect Ave.

Poetry in the Park featuring readings from STACY SZYMASZEK, KIMBERLY ALIDIO, LEWIS FREEDMAN, and OLIVER ANTONI KRAWCZYK

# **APRIL** 2024

S	М	Т	W	Т	F	S
	1	2	<b>3</b> Cactus Book Club	<b>4</b> Chapson Farrell	5	6 Workshop: "Watershed Moments"
7 Alternating Currents Live (ACL)	8	<b>9</b> Ping Pong	<b>10</b> Readshop	11	<b>12</b> City Lights	<b>13</b> City Lights
14	15	16	17	<b>18</b> Formations	<b>19</b> United We Read	<b>20</b> MKE Zine Fest
21	22	<b>23</b> Ping Pong	<b>24</b> Tohe Blaeser Paschen	<b>25</b> Tohe Blaeser Beer	<b>26</b> resound return	<b>27</b> Teen Poetry Fest
28 ACL The Bridge #2.10	29	30				

# **JUNE**

S	М	Т	W	Т	F	S
						1
2	3	<b>4</b> Ping Pong	<b>5</b> Readshop	6 Moten López Taylor	7	8
				ACL		
9 Locust St. Fest	10	Poetry in the Park	12	13	14	15
16	17 Poetry Camp	18 Poetry Camp	19 Poetry Camp	20 Poetry Camp	<b>21</b> Poetry Camp	22
		Ping Pong	Readshop	Formations		
23	<b>24</b> Poetry Camp	25 Poetry Camp	26 Poetry Camp	27 Poetry Camp	28 Poetry Camp	29
30					resound return	

# MAY

S	М	Т	W	Т	F	S
			<b>1</b> Workshop: Who is Speaking	<b>2</b> Gizzi	3	4
5	6	<b>7</b> Ping Pong	<b>8</b> Readshop	<b>9</b> Dorantes Johnson Xu	10	Workshop: Poetry Games  Galvin Voras-Hills
12	13	14	15	<b>16</b> Formations	17	<b>18</b> MYPL Finals
19	20	<b>21</b> Ping Pong	<b>22</b> Readshop	23	24	25
26	27	28 Workshop: Dividing Your Time, All the Time	<b>29</b> Barrois/Dixon Kaszubowski	30	31 resound return	

# MIMI TEMPESTT

seven **oracles in α séance playing russian roulette** & my spirit doesn't feel like dying quietly today

i pray in tsunamis
riding moon-made waves
for the sake of this universe's inconsistency
parade around as drunken fool at center stage
& suspend everyone's imagination

the audacity for anyone to say they know me must have the foresight to meet me before me

every day i wake up & watch my old renditions steal my heart away from my mother's wildest dream you keep asking me to tell my story i'm too busy creating the world Bring your blankets and chairs, snacks and drinks, and friends, and join us at the Solomon Juneau statue for this beloved summer reading series, now entering its ninth year. Poetry in the Park takes place in Juneau Park on the second Tuesday of June, July, August, and September, with rain dates scheduled on the second Wednesday of each month. This season's events are made possible with support from Juneau Park Friends, the National Endowment for the Arts, and Village Church.

Other Poetry in the Park readings will take place on July 9, August 13, and September 10, with lineups to be announced.

STACY SZYMASZEK is the author of seven books of poetry, most recently, The Pasolini Book (2022) and Famous Hermits (2023). Their book Essay will be published in 2025. They are the recipient of a 2014 New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship in Poetry, a 2019 Foundation for Contemporary Arts grant in poetry, and are a 2024 MacDowell Fellow. They have served as a mentor for Queer Art Mentorship and the Project's ESB Fellowship. Szymaszek worked at Woodland Pattern Book Center (1999-2005) before moving to NYC to work at The Poetry Project at St. Mark's Church, where they were the Artistic/ Executive Director from 2007-2018. With her partner, the poet Kimberly Alidio, they live in New York's Upper Hudson Valley on the sacred homelands of the Munsee and Muhheaconneok people, who, due to forced removal, reside in Northeast Wisconsin as the Stockbridge-Munsee Community. Szymaszek is the Development Director for a small organic farm where they are also a volunteer cow groomer.

KIMBERLY ALIDIO is a person in the literary arts who supports collective resistance, collective refusal, and collective flourishing to dismantle settler colonial states everywhere. She is the author of four poetry books, Teeter, why letter ellipses,: once teeth bones coral:, and after projects the resound, as well as ROOM TONE: Belladonna\* Chaplet 297, and The Girls and a Joke: 1080 Press Newsletter #19. Her essays appear on The Poetry Foundation and e-flux. She lives and works on unceded Munsee-Mohican and Lenape lands along the Mahicannituck River, otherwise known as New York's Hudson Valley.

**LEWIS FREEDMAN** is a poet and person who is the author of *Residual Synonyms for the Name of God* and *I Want Something Other Than Time* (both from Ugly Duckling

Presse) as well as many chapbooks of poetry, including *Am Perhaps Yet* (Oxeye) and most recently, *Eternal Balsamic Contract* (Spiral Editions). In addition, he has authored several experiments on the form of the book including *Solitude: The Complete Games* (Troll Thread), a collaboration with Kevin Rydberg that will take several years for your computer to read, and the book within a book, *Hold the Blue Orb, Baby* (Well-Greased Press) which interleaves notebook facsimiles with poems on the practice of notebooking. He has taught writing at Bard College, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Oklahoma State University, and has served as Visiting Writer-in-Residence at Carthage College. (He is also Woodland Pattern's Book Center Manager!)

**OLIVER ANTONI KRAWCZYK** is a poet who grew up in Milwaukee. He was a guest literary judge and current interviewer for *Table///Feast* literary magazine. He's published in the *West Review*, *Lullwater Review*, and elsewhere; as well as *Hope Is The Thing* and *Listen To Your Skin* anthologies. He enjoys participating in karaoke when he's not at work.

# **WORKSHOPS**

A limited number of scholarships are available for each workshop we offer. Writers who are of a low-income and/or of marginalized identities are particularly encouraged to apply.



Sat. Apr. 6 | 2-5 pm CDT (Free with registration)
\*IN PERSON\* at Urban Ecology Center—Riverside Park Branch (1500 E. Park Place)

This workshop is free to attend, but space is limited. Please register in advance at woodlandpattern.org to ensure a spot.

Come gather to play with water and words as a part of Emerging Poet Fellow BEN BINVERSIE's "Watershed Moments" project. Ben and MARTINA PATTERSON will facilitate a generative workshop where we will commune and communicate with water in refreshing ways. We will play with the ancient Japanese art of marbling, Suminagashi, as well as with movement, stories, and sound, with the hopes of deepening our connection to the waters that sustain us, and writing from and towards that place of connection. This workshop is the beginning of Ben's project, which will culminate in a publication and waterside reading of poems gathered from Milwaukee's watersheds.

Artist, Master Naturalist, Land Steward, Environmental Educator, and community wellness advocate, MARTINA **PATTERSON**. also known as mars. has earned multiple certifications in ethnohorticultural practices such as plant pathology and physiology, cultural medicinal herbal wellness, traditional cultural plant usage, and ecological restoration. Examples of mars' leadership as an Ecological Restorationist can be seen throughout Milwaukee's Northwest side. mars' mixed media weavings, wearable art, eco-soft-sculptures, as well as ceramic tile murals (created in collaboration with fellow artists and mentors Melanie Tallmadge-Sainz, Hocak Elder and Founder of Little Eagle Arts Foundation, and Muneer Bahauddeen, master ceramist and Elder) can be viewed throughout Wisconsin. mars is currently serving as a MdW Arts Fellow focusing on connecting people, place, and plants through eco art workshop facilitation, land restoration volunteering, and leading nature 'healing hikes' within Milwaukee County. mars earned a BFA from The Illinois Institute of Art (2008).

BEN BINVERSIE tries to share joy and wonder by whatever means necessary, often through the simple and sacred activities most humans have practiced since forever, including dancing, singing, playing, and storytelling. Ben cares about the words we use and the stories we live in, foolishly believing they might yet matter, especially if we seek to reconcile and honor the magic of this place we call home. Ben makes movies, poems, essays, zines, soundscapes, songs, and a lot of chaos. In the wild, he can usually be found swimming in Michigami, dancing around town, or eating frozen custard. Ben grew up in Mequon, and now lives along the Milwaukee River, where he forages for fungi and other wonders. He's excited to gather around water with neighbors for this project and curious what beauty we can make together.

#### **About the Watershed Moments project:**

"Watershed moments," commonly understood, mark momentous changes. If we want to continue living on this planet, many folks believe we have to make some big changes in how we live. This project asks us to take a good, hard look at our words and waters and how we use them. By exploring our connection to this vital element and interrogating how we can infuse our words with a caring spirit, perhaps we can deepen and mend that connection. Whether mundane or glacial, miniscule or grand, magical or grotesque, language and water flow through us and connect us all. Words often fail to adequately communicate the sensation of lived experience, but they are some of the best tools we have. Expressing these moments of connection can be challenging, but it is a good task for poetry—and for the people of Milwaukee.

Learn more about each of the following poets presenting workshops under READINGS & CONVERSATIONS.

Wed. May 1 | 6-8 pm CDT (\$75 | \$67 for members)
\*IN PERSON\* at Woodland Pattern

Who is Speaking?, a workshop with PETER GIZZI

We will question the relationship between world and word and ask who is speaking in a poem. Do we speak or are we spoken? We will consider the role of mystery, presence, and intimacy in our writing.

Requirements: Please bring in 2 poems with copies to distribute with the workshop.

- 1. One poem of your own poems of your choosing to share.
- 2. And a second poem written in response to a book of poetry that you love. Please try to write an "imitation" from your reading of the book. You are required to bring in this response poem and a small paragraph on how the book affected the writing of your poem. Also, bring a copy of the book to class.

# **PETER GIZZI**

#### **Archeophonics**

I'm just visiting this voice
I'm just visiting the molecular structures
that say what I am saying
I am just visiting the world at this moment
and it's on fire
It's always been on fire

I'm saying this and it's saying me
That's how it works, seesaw like
The archive in the mouth and the archive is on fire
That's the story
The sun and the body and the body in the sun

It was like this just like this

The world that's coming toward me

And the world around me

Around me are words saying this

saying fire

Saying something or all of it

Sat. May 11 | 1-4 pm CDT (\$75 | \$67 for members)
\*IN PERSON\* at Woodland Pattern

**Poetry Games: The Poetics of Procedure & Constraint**, a workshop with **RACHEL GALVIN** 

In this poetry workshop, we will try out some techniques that can help make the blank page a little less blank. We will experiment with a variety of constraints and procedures that may include creative translations; re-writing; erasures; collages; a selection of stimulating Oulipian constraints (e.g. only using certain letters or writing three versions of the same poem, etc.). "Oulipo" is a French acronym that stands for Workshop or Sewing Circle of Potential Literature. This group of international writers and mathematicians founded in 1960—and which still thrives today—was famously described by Raymond Queneau as « Rats who build the labyrinth from which they will try to escape. » The group's aim is to use constraints and procedures to create new literary forms. In a similar spirit of playful experiment, we will generate new drafts together during this workshop, while discussing topics including inspiration, authorship, form, and copying and plagiarism.

Tues. May 28 | 6-8 pm CDT (\$75 | \$67 for members)
\*IN PERSON\* at Woodland Pattern

**Dividing Your Time, All the Time: ways to incorporate your desire to write into any time you choose**, a workshop with **DARA BARROIS/DIXON** 

Everyone of us wonders how to find time, to find the cracks and crevices, ruptures and openings where writing and thinking can happen in all circumstances. Sometimes we have to make them. We have to imagine them. Sometimes they are there all along for us to see. The time we have together will be to *find the time*—the time that will keep a place in our brains awake to possibility, one thing we all need to write. We will make time in our time together to write some, talk some, and share some tried and true means to write no matter what.

Families, friends, jobs, work, day-to-day chores, habits, everyday obstacles, social obligations, school, commutes, train and plane and bus rides, waiting in line, and so on, all hold opportunities to practice what we need to keep alive intentions, desires, passion, and will to write.

Bring with you paper or laptop, or other means by which you put words down for others and yourself to see.

Bring, by someone else, one short poem or paragraph you admire and one page of your writing you'd like us to hear and see. Seeing your writing in public goes a long way to letting you see it as others might see it.

Bring one page of notes, to share in our conversation, concerning how you imagine finding time to write what you would like to write, and a list of places, things, people, situations, etc. in which you can imagine finding time.

# **CONCERTS**

Sun. Apr. 7 | 7 pm CDT (\$15 General | \$13 Members)\*HYBRID\* In person at Woodland Pattern and livestreaming via Crowdcast

Alternating Currents Live presents ERNEST DAWKINS' Boglifier Project featuring

ERNEST DAWKINS—reeds & electronics NOVA ZAII—drums & electronics JONATHAN WOODS—video projection

World premiere saxophonist/composer **ERNEST DAWKINS** returns with his **Boglifier Project** celebrating the richness of urban rhyme and African American folk melodies alongside live acoustic sound, electronic signal processing, looping, dance, creative improvisation. collective interplay and exploration of sound.

Thur. Apr. 18 | 7 PM CST (\$10)

\*HYBRID\* In person at Woodland Pattern and livestreaming via Crowdcast

Formations Series for New and Improvised Music presents WILHELM MATTHIES with another performer to be announced.

**WILHELM MATTHIES** will play his invented string instruments that are both bow-able and pluck-able and will be amplified. His improvisations will explore sonic spaces of the instrument while also touching on changing emotional states.



Sun. Apr. 28 | 7 pm CDT (\$15 General | \$13 Members)\*HYBRID\* In person at Woodland Pattern and livestreaming via Crowdcast

Alternating Currents Live presents THE BRIDGE #2.10 featuring

NICK MAZZARELLA—alto saxophone
TIM STINE—guitar
CÉLINE RIVOAL—accordion
KATIE ERNST—double bass, voice
SYLVAIN LEMÊTRE—percussions

In anticipation. What is the anticipation, since 2018 that this formation was envisioned? How do you talk about things and unknown music in anticipation? By daring to dream? Of a disconcerting concerto for alto saxophone, accordion, guitar, double bass, and percussion? Of all the ensembles to have crossed this transatlantic bridge, this one promises to be one of the most radiant. Rays of black light, and rays of white light, and rays of all shapes in light and shadow. The domain of all five of them: the realm of the possible, that of hallucinatory hallucinations, with a considerable degree of subtlety, color and texture. With the freedom and prolixity one associates with so-called jazz music (but which, exactly?), the intricacy and assurance one associates with so-called contemporary music (but which, exactly?),

the clarity and strangeness one associates with so-called traditional music (but which, exactly?), and all of it jumbled together, since we're also talking about open music.

Let's listen to a story, a matter of sharing musical histories between two contemporary cultures, as recounted by one of the members of this forthcoming ensemble, Sylvain Lemêtre: "Moving forward and taking sideways steps are two seemingly opposite attitudes, but ultimately necessary to move forward. I've always taken the roundabout route, I've always liked to thwart frontiers, and it's necessary for me to be nourished by musical encounters and explorations. Everything is created through movement. And for me, creation is a necessity, requiring me to direct movement in multiple directions, at the risk of sometimes getting lost in it, but doesn't chance come from this freedom of movement? We could say that the greater the movement, the more fruitful the chance, couldn't we? 6646 km of distance for me with Chicago, that's promising! Let's provoke chance and reap the fruits of its promises: the experience of encounter offered by The Bridge is a real opportunity for us French musicians. And this encounter is perhaps more important than the result of the encounter itself. It was this realization that led me to agree to cross The Bridge. To let myself be taken on board by The Bridge team in order to thwart the supposed boundaries between what improvisation is in Chicago and our more recent French history of improvisation. We're not the elders of jazz and all the music that stems from it. I often look across the Atlantic. They prepared the ground. And we've been cultivating it ever since. We've found that legitimacy, and some of us are well and truly emancipated from our contemporary classical music. It's taken a certain rigor and determination, and we've had to resist and fight to create spaces of freedom. Perhaps this is because our music has gradually lost its social function, and is now rarely used for political action?"

The Bridge is supported by Ministère de la Culture, Sacem, Centre National de la Musique, Spedidam, Adami, Institut Français, Experimental Sound Studio & University of Chicago.

Thur. May 16 | 7 PM CST (\$10)

\*HYBRID\* In person at Woodland Pattern and livestreaming via Crowdcast

Formations Series for New and Improvised Music performers to be announced

Thur. June 6 | 7 pm CDT (\$Give What You Can)
\*HYBRID\* In person at Woodland Pattern and
livestreaming via Crowdcast

Join us for an **interdisciplinary exploration** of poetry and music with **FRED MOTEN** (voice/poetry) & **BRANDON LÓPEZ** (double bass), and **KEN TAYLOR** (voice/poetry). Presented as part of both our *Alternating Currents Live* series for improvised music and our poetry series *Through Lines*, with support from the NEA.

FRED MOTEN works in the Departments of Performance Studies and Comparative Literature at New York University. He is concerned with social movement, aesthetic experiment, and black study, and has written a number of books of poetry and criticism, the latest of which, written with Stefano Harney, is *All Incomplete* (Minor Compositions/Autonomedia, 2021). In addition to his long-term collaboration with Harney, Moten is engaged in ongoing work with critic Laura Harris, artist Wu Tsang and musicians Gerald Cleaver and Brandon López. Moten is a MacArthur Fellow, a Guggenheim Fellow and a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. His book *perennial fashion presence falling* was published by Wave Books in 2023.

BRANDON LÓPEZ is a New York-based composer and bassist working at the fringes of jazz, free improvisation, noise, and new music. His music has been praised as "brutal" (Chicago Reader) and "relentless" (The New York Times). From the New York Philharmonic's David Geffen Hall to the DIY basements of Brooklyn, López has worked beside many luminaries of jazz, classical, poetry, and experimental music, including Fred Moten, John Zorn, Okkyung Lee, Ingrid Laubrock, Tony Malaby, Tyshawn Sorey, Cecilia Lopez, Sun Ra Arkestra, Susan Alcorn, Mette Rasmussen, and many others. Recent highlight performances include opening the 2018–2019 season of the New York Philharmonic as a featured soloist in Ashley Fure's "Filament" and a number of works with John Zorn, including Zorn's 35th anniversary of "Cobra."

**KEN TAYLOR** is the author of two chapbooks and three books of poetry, including *variations in the dream of X*, coming soon from Black Square Editions. He recently collaborated with Ed Roberson on *found poem(s)*, a book of photos (Ken's) and poetry (Ed's), forthcoming from Corbett vs. Dempsey. He is the founder of selva oscura press, which he edits with Fred Moten.

Thur. Jun. 20 | 7 PM CST (\$10)

\*HYBRID\* In person at Woodland Pattern and livestreaming via Crowdcast

Formations Series for New and Improvised Music presents FERAL KID THEORY with another performer to be announced.

FERAL KID THEORY is an instrumental ensemble playing third stream jazz mixed with ambient, noise, and various folk musics, The ensemble consists of Kelly Popko and Nick Verbos from Milwaukee experimental music collective Fundamentals, with various guest musicians. In addition to Fundamentals, Kelly has played with New Millennium Chamber Orchestra, the Marquette String Quartet, and a variety of college and youth ensembles. In addition to Fundamentals, Nick has played with Funkopolis/Closed Captioned, Make No Mistake, and performs solo under the name Amphibient.

# **EXHIBITION**

**Everything Has a Story**, work by **DARLENE WESENBERG RZEZOTARSKI** 

## On view through May 31, 2024

Everything Has a Story offers a retrospective of Darlene Wesenberg Rzezotarski's work to date. Wesenberg Rzezotarski begins her creative practice by researching and reflecting on historical narratives, myths, or tales. Using this gathered information, she creates sculptures that delve into the lives of Increase Lapham and Lizzie Kander, as well as mythological beings such as Daedalus and Icarus, to name only a few. Rendered as ceramic objects, the main subjects of these stories are situated centrally and represented figuratively, while iconographic images and phrases float around each character building the metaphoric scenery in which their stories occur. Wesenberg Rzezotarski's gestural approach to shaping the clay animates these characters and makes their presence palpable, as if the represented individuals are themselves sitting within the vignettes. This vitality may be why some sculptures have inspired the creation of subsequent pieces, allowing the stories to unfold in series, furthering their narrative arcs, and creating rich tableaus. Wesenberg Rzezotarski crafts her stories

using clay as well as the written word, with published books of prose and poetry. *Everything Has a Story* is comprised of selections from both her sculptural and written works.

**DARLENE "LOLLY" WESENBERG RZEZOTARSKI is a** storyteller-through word and clay. She arrived in Milwaukee in 1965, thinking she'd teach here one year to repay student loans and move on. But something happened: She fell in love with the place. More than fifty years later, she remains involved in writing, teaching, and creating ceramic art. With a master's degree in comparative literature from UWM, she has taught English for MPS and has shared her love of writing and the creative arts with generations of students. She looks back with gratitude on that day in 1982 when she first put her hands in clay. A coil-pot in the form of a snake emerged. She inscribed the word hiss-story inside. Since then, she has developed her ability to create ceramic sculptures, eventually setting up a home studio and offering hand-building workshops. Her sculptures are described as narrative in nature, anchored in history or myth, often sitespecific. She is the author of three books: Trick a Witch, Wed a Hedgehog, Save your Soul: An American Artist Encounters Poland; Memorable Milwaukee: Legendary Tales Depicted in Clay; and Tannenbaum Arms, a novel set in Milwaukee in the Vietnam Era, first appearing in monthly installment form in the Riverwest Currents in 2022.



# COMMUNITY

For more details or to join a community group, please contact Programming Director Mike Wendt (michaelw@ woodlandpattern.org). All community sessions are free and open to the public.

Wed. Apr. 3 | 5:30-7:30 pm CDT
\*IN PERSON\* at Cactus Club (2496 S. Wentworth Ave.)



We're excited to celebrate
Poetry Month at the Cactus
Book Club with a discussion
of the delicacy of embracing
spirals by mimi tempestt.
tempestt's poetry collection
investigates the ways in
which the personal narrative
of Black queer womanhood
can be expressed through a
radically human lens. With a
visual sensibility that explodes
across the page, the collection
begins with microcosmic

poems of personal struggle and spirals out to macrocosmic texts of social and political critique. The book culminates in a fantastic account of the staging of a play with lifethreatening consequences.

CACTUS BOOK CLUB meets on the first Wednesday of the month from 5:30-7:30 at Cactus Club (in the back venue room or outside patio, weather permitting). Each month a different business, community organization, collective, or artist chooses the book and leads the discussion. We read fiction and non-fiction, with a focus on works by women, LGBTQ+, POC, and/or otherwise under-published groups. You don't have to finish reading the book to attend. 18+. All book club meetings are free. No registration required.



Fri. Apr. 26, May 31, and Jun. 28 | 7 pm CDT (\$Give What You Can)

\*IN PERSON\* at Woodland Pattern

Open Mic: resound return

Hide from the rain, ease your creative congestion, don't let that fluttery feeling stop you from sharing your spring fever symptoms. Your poetics won't propagate themselves. resound return is hosted the last Friday of every month. Register upon arrival; reading begins at 7:10 PM.

Wed. Apr. 10; May 8 & 22; and Jun. 5 & 19 | 6-7:15 pm CDT \*ONLINE\* on 700m

**Reading Group: Readshops** 

Led by poet and Woodland Pattern co-founder **KARL GARTUNG**, Readshops are community sessions dedicated to exploring poetry texts from the 20th century that are often labeled "difficult." Participants take turns reading the poetry aloud, discussing it as questions arise—on the spot, as deeply as needed. No preparation is needed; the only prerequisite is curiosity.

The group is reading from Robin Blaser's *The Holy Forest*, which, spanning five decades, is Blaser's highly acclaimed lifelong serial poem. "Blaser plays his poems like an instrument. The glorious phrases that come forth ring with the memory of fairy tale, myth, gospel, but hang hard on to the modern world in his variety of measure and stress. Blaser is moving us all forward to a less certain result through a forest that has few resting places where the sun stays for longer than a minute." —Fanny Howe

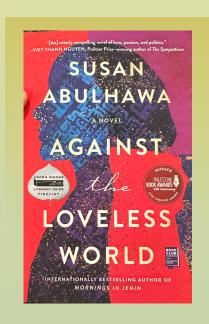
Tue. Apr. 9 & 23; May 7 & 21: and

Jun. 4 & 18 | 6-7 pm CDT

\*IN PERSON\* at Woodland Pattern

#### Reading Group: Ping Pong Book Club

The Ping Pong Book Club invites AAPI people to read together in an environment of solace and nourishmentto connect and share in conversation through literature, especially during times of distress. Our goal is to exchange thoughts, experiences, and feelings among one another, a backand-forth, like table tennis, or simply ping pong. The reading material will focus on fiction and nonfiction literature specifically by

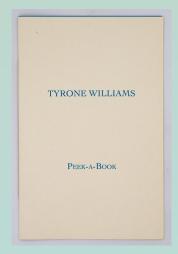


female, BIPOC, and LGBTQIA+ writers, with a focus on art and artists writings. The Ping Pong Book Club is led by artist **NOMKA ENKHEE**, who lives and works in Milwaukee. The group is currently reading *Against the Loveless World* by Susan Abulhawa.

The Ping Pong Book Club recognizes the term AAPI as a huge umbrella that covers many global diasporic communities including different languages, religions, and cultures. We understand this term designed to encompass such a vast and multifaceted group has its limitations and want to create a community that is diverse and truly representative. Therefore we welcome everyone whose identities are tied in location to South Asia, Southeast Asia, Central Asia, West Asia, the Pacific Islands, and East Asia.

# STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

#### **IN MEMORIAM**



Peek-a-Book by Tyrone
Williams (Woodland Pattern,
2013)—We mourn the loss of the
great Tyrone Williams, whose
poetry and person profoundly
affected so many other poets
who have passed through our
doors. This pamphlet, published
in-house on September 9, 2013,
serves as both an introduction to
his playful brilliance (for those in
need of one) and as an article of
remembrance. (Jenny & Laura)



"The Guard" by Lyn
Hejinian (Woodland
Pattern / Black Mesa
Press, 1983)—And we
mourn the passing, too, of
Lyn Hejinian, who, like
Tyrone, visited Woodland
Pattern over the course of
her life and had many
friends in our community.
Illustrated by artist Ruth
Lingen, this early broadside
is one of our most stunning
and (to us) precious.
(Jenny & Laura)

# STAFF



The Life and Poetry of Lew Welch by
Ewan Clark (Oregon State University
Press, 2023)—Largely remembered for his
mysterious disappearance in May 1971, Lew
Welch was an important voice of the Beat
Generation and San Francisco Renaissance.
He spoke of key issues that America was
facing in the aftermath of World War II—

from the rise of consumerism and complacent suburban sensibilities to the threat of environmental disaster. He championed American speech, idioms, and identities. He found inspiration in the words of Gertrude Stein and William Carlos Williams, in the philosophies of Senzaki and the Buddha, and in his myriad friendships with some of the most renowned and revered poets, musicians, and artists of the 1950s and 1960s. His search for authenticity in language and poetry was a small part of a far greater search to establish a clear sense of himself. With this first full-length biography, Ewan Clark vividly restores Lew Welch to his rightful place as an important member of a significant American literary and cultural movement. [Chuck]



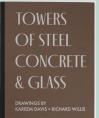
godhouse by Ruth Ellen Kocher (Omnidawn, 2023)—Starting with the idea that the human experience is the universe looking back at itself, godhouse takes the notion a few steps further by centering cosmology within a raced and gendered body. Ruth Ellen Kocher's poems envision this body as a union of god and soul that,

within our material world, encompasses love and hate, joy and despair. The body is a site of divine presence made mortal, electrified with the resonance of both the infinite and the human. In *godhouse*, we encounter the body as a site where the universe is made personal and celebratory, where the celestial endure the complications of flesh and friction forms between the glorious and the monstrous aspects of personhood. [Antonio]



Portrait with Parkinson's by Jed Munson (Oxeye Press, 2023)—Interweaving the holding and releasing powers of writing as a spiritual practice, Portrait with Parkinson's brings together two devotional poems for the poet's mother that consider the simultaneity of lament and gratitude. [Mike]

# RECOMMENDATIONS



Towers of Steel, Concrete & Glass:
Drawings by Kareem Davis + Richard
Willis (Almighty & Insane Books, 2023)—
Kareem Davis and Richard Willis are
Chicago artists whose work concerns the urban landscape around them. Their shared enthusiasm for the histories of

buildings and other structures around the city betrays a passion for Chicago's architecture—famed or otherwise. Davis's line drawings of residential buildings (from luxury condos to now demolished CHA high-rises) float between architectural renderings and geometric abstraction while Willis's drawings of water-tanks and water-towers are more expressive in character with added color and imaginative flourishes. Both these artists record and interpret Chicago's architectural history through their personal expression. This publication captures these moments of history to share with others, and to be experienced from many perspectives—aesthetic, architectural, historical, social, and personal—while celebrating the work of these artists and the dedication to their city. [Molly]

#### Nice Collected Poems David Melnick



Nice by David Melnick (Nightboat, 2023)— David Melnick's Nice: Collected Poems

David Melnick's *Nice: Collected Poems* spans twenty crucial years of gay life and experimentation with poetic form, bringing together four masterworks of American literature: *Eclogs* (1967–70), ten episodes in the urban afterlife of the pastoral; *PCOET* (1972), written in an unknown tongue, verse

for a world that's yet to be; *Men in Aida* (1983-85), Melnick's masterpiece, a giddy epic of queer community; and *A Pin's Fee* (1988), a backward glance and elegy, a cry of pain, a howl of anger. [Lewis]



Things You May Find Hidden in My Ear by Mosab Abu Toha (City Lights, 2022)—These poems emerge directly from the experience of growing up and living in constant lockdown, and often under direct attack. Like Gaza itself, they are filled with rubble and the ever-present menace of surveillance

drones policing a people unwelcome in their own land, and they are also suffused with the smell of tea, roses in bloom, and the view of the sea at sunset. Children are born, families continue traditions, students attend university, and libraries rise from the ruins as Palestinians go on about their lives, creating beauty and finding new ways to survive. [Alexa]

# ABOUT WOODLAND PATTERN

# THE BOOK CENTER

selection of Rare and Limited Edition items, and more from our catalog. We In addition to visiting us in person, please also visit our online book center at www.woodlandpatternbookcenter.com to browse New Arrivals, Staff Picks. /ou, please be in touch! Stop by, give us a call, or check in with us at info@ are also always happy to field special orders. If a small-press title beckons woodlandpattern.org to place a special order. Gift certificates are also

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visual, performing, and literary arts; and to act as a bridge between local and are to promote a lifetime practice of reading and writing; to serve as a forum and resource center for poets and other artists in our region; to increase the audience for poetry through programs that encourage exchange across the and presentation of poetry, independent literature, and the arts. Our goals Woodland Pattern Book Center is dedicated to the discovery, cultivation, **OUR MISSION** 

# CONTACT US:

(414) 263 - 5001

national communities of poets and other artists.

www.woodlandpattern.org @woodlandpattern

Please consult our website for updates. Tue.-Sun. 12-7 pm **CENTER HOURS:** 

A. Symchych & James P. McNulty Charitable Fund, Milwaukee Arts Board, Milwaukee County CAMPAC, Norma L. Ragir Foundation, Lucy & Jack Rosenberg Fund, Karen & Bob Shapiro Family Fund, Christine Milwaukee City Community Development Block Grant, MPS Partnership for the Arts & Humanities, National Endowment for the Arts, Ruth Foundation for the Arts, Wisconsin Arts Board, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, and gifts from many generous donors. THANK YOU!

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