Dear friends,

The 17-year cicadas have emerged in southern Wisconsin, singing a collective poem that will extend through the coming weeks. May such steady communal magics, ones which ring out into unpredictability, always come to be.

In this spirit of song, we invite you to walk with us—at times, quite literally—through what promises to be a notably active and eclectic summer of programs, where poetry abounds.

Some of this season's poems will arrive to you at your doorstep, delivered by bicycle over the course of ten days in September via the poet Mathias Svalina's Dream Delivery Service, which he is bringing to town along with other imaginative wor(l)dly delights, including a Riverwest Dream History Tour. And others will come to you in visual form in July via our first-ever aCinema Summer Screening Series, an entire weekend of moving image works and short films curated by the brilliant duo of Takahiro Suzuki and Janelle VanderKelen as a re-envisioning of aCinema's eighth season at Woodland Pattern.

More lyricism awaits you at Poetry in the Park, where you will encounter a dozen beloved bards in July, August, and September—among them our newly minted Milwaukee Youth Poet Laureate Aleena Ahmed, who moved us deeply in May during her performance and afterward, as she accepted her award from outgoing inaugural Laureate Emily Igwike at Milwaukee Public Library’s Centennial Hall.

We must also guide you to two more young poets who are singularly expanding and sharing their visions this summer: Tasneem Jassar, our Milwaukee Emerging Poet Fellow in Practice, will join us in the gallery in September to share poems developed during her mentorship with poet and longtime Woodland Pattern friend Ae Hee Lee; and Ben Binversie, our Milwaukee Emerging Poet Fellow in Projects, calls you to participate in his “Watershed Moments” endeavor, with opportunities to submit poems for publication in late July and come together for a reading at Bradford Beach in August.

Finally, we must cast one more hot tractor beam in your direction: Our second-annual Brunchraiser will be held on Sunday, Sept. 15, from 10 am–2 pm at The Cooperage. You should not miss out on this year’s iteration! Details are in the pages to follow, as are specific dates for the aforementioned programs, and more.

See you soon,

Jenny Gropp & Laura Solomon
Executive Directors

ON THE COVER

Detail from the dairy queen parking lot at 3:47 on a tuesday afternoon, part of and now i am lost in it, work by Parker Markin
SPECIAL EVENTS
2ND ANNUAL BRUNCHRAISER!

Sun. Sept. 15 | 10 AM–2 PM (see ticket levels below)
*IN PERSON* at The Cooperage, 822 S. Water St.

Join us in our work to encourage interdisciplinary collaboration and exchange, and to support poets and artists working at both the intersections and the margins!

Hosted at The Cooperage, our second-annual Brunchraiser will feature a sit-down, family-style brunch with an exciting cocktail menu; a keynote reading by former US Poet Laureate JUAN FELIPE HERRERA; musical performances; an online auction; and various activities and entertainment—including tarot readings, a poetry "confessional booth" attended by poet and Deliverer of Dreams MATHIAS SVALINA, and another fabulous Poetry Catwalk featuring Milwaukee poets and artists. This year’s costume theme is "Sunday Best" so come dressed for Poetry Church!

Honorees for this year’s event are Woodland Pattern volunteer YUCHEN ZHAO, former Milwaukee Poet Laureate BRENDA CÁRDENAS, and Woodland Pattern Co-Founder KARL GARTUNG.

The BRUNCHRAISER will benefit Woodland Pattern’s most underfunded programs, including the Milwaukee Youth Poet Laureate and Milwaukee Emerging Poet Fellowship programs, aCinema Film Series screenings, and Alternating Currents Live—the longest running new and improvised music concert series in the Midwest! Funds raised will also help underwrite all our gallery exhibitions and visual art programming.

Single event tickets are available for $125, and couple’s tickets for $250. You may also reserve a half or full table for $500 or $1,000 respectively. (Please note that we additionally have a number of discounted single tickets available for students and others for whom the cost of attendance may be prohibitive.)

Sponsors for our Second Annual Brunchraiser include Educators Credit Union, RitzHolman CPAs, Lilliput Records, Karen Campbell & Kevin Ronnie, Mary Gute Witte & Ned Witte, Paula Kiely, and Ed & Brooke Krishok. We still have several sponsorships available, and all levels include event tickets and additional perks! To learn more about sponsorships or to purchase tickets, please visit our website.

SPECIAL SUMMER PROGRAMS
Dream Delivery Service

MATHIAS SVALINA will bring The Dream Delivery Service to Milwaukee from Sept. 8–21! Svalina will begin his stay by leading a dream history tour of Riverwest on Sept. 8 (details below), and 10 days of Dream Delivery Service will commence on Sept. 11.

THE DREAM DELIVERY SERVICE is a nomadic literary arts project in which Svalina writes and delivers dreams to subscribers. The dreams are brief surrealist narratives, written in the second person and addressed to the subscriber. Though Svalina invents and writes the dreams, the recipient dreams them in the reading of them. The Dream Delivery Service was started in 2014 and has delivered more than 40,000 dreams in over 35 cities. In that time the service has worked with the Denver Museum of Contemporary Art, the MOCA Tucson, the Poetry Foundation, and Just Buffalo Literary Center, among other institutions, and has been featured on NPR’s Morning Edition, Hyperallergic, the BBC World News, on the front page of the Denver Post, and in other media of which
How to receive dreams: Dreams for recipients who live within about a four-mile radius of Woodland Pattern will be delivered to your door or mailbox most mornings by bicycle, while dreams for recipients outside that radius will be mailed. If you live in Milwaukee, we invite you to sign up to receive dreams, which will arrive to you free-of-cost! This is a first-come, first-serve opportunity, with sign-ups happening at the Sept. 10 Poetry in the Park reading featuring Svalina (see “Readings + Conversations”) and on our website, with more details forthcoming.

In addition to running the Dream Delivery Service for the past decade, MATHIAS SVALINA is the author of eight books, most recently Thank You Terror, published by Big Lucks Books. His first short-story collection, Comedy, will be published later in 2024. Svalina was a founding editor of Octopus Books and has led writing workshops in universities, libraries, community spaces, and in prisons.

Sun. Sept. 8 | 2 PM
($Give What You Can)
*IN PERSON* starting at Woodland Pattern

As part of his visit to Milwaukee Mathias Svalina will lead a dream history tour of Riverwest. This walking tour will begin at Woodland Pattern.

With the dream history tour, Svalina will guide folks through the neighborhood surrounding Woodland Pattern, pointing out places where things that never happened happened, and elucidating a few of the city’s imaginary histories. Modeled on normal city-history walking tours, but taking into account the political reductionism and erasures often found in civic history’s uses of the past, the dream-history tour mixes facts from history, surrealist invention, and outright silliness, encouraging participants to view their city with new forms of wonder and mythos.

MATHIAS SVALINA

A Dream

You are in the middle of a herd of horses, galloping over dry hills, the sky a clear & jewel-like blue beyond blue, bluer than any blue in the waking world, a blue that waking eyes have not evolved the skill to see. You are you, running your human-running, but you can keep up with the running horses. Your mouth is split in the widest smile. Sweat pours from you. You are a kind of happy you have never felt before, or not in a long time, a happiness rising from within each cell of your body. The horses toss their heads. They leap little leaps of joy. Finally, you peel off from the herd to catch your breath. The herd, waiting for your return, runs in a tight circle beside a small hill. A woman in a blue dress dances on the hill. She gives her whole body to the dancing, uninhibited, moving how only her body can move, only right now, only right here. It takes a moment to realize she is dancing to the sound of the herd of horses, her body animated by the thudding hooves, a rhythm so complex that it had sounded to you like mere noise. Only through her dancing do you decode the noise into rhythm, hear the dozens of interlocking rhythms, hear each horse, not only their hooves, but their hearts, their breaths. You pick up a handful of dirt. You see the music in the dirt too, in the minerals & rot. You see the trees & grasses & bones & flesh & stars that this dirt once was, you see billions of years of flame & churn in the dirt. The dirt sings to you. Each speck of dirt sings. A raindrop falls from the blue sky. Another. Another. And then it is pouring. You hear every raindrop hit the dirt. You stand in the rain. Years pass. You are still standing in the rain, though there is no rain, though you are at the carnival, at the museum, in a prison, in your own grave. You will always be, no matter where you are or what you are doing, standing in this rain.
Watershed Moments

Sat. Aug. 17 | 1 PM
*IN PERSON* at Bradford Beach (north end)
Submissions due Mon. July 29 via Submittable

We hope you’ll contribute to a publication and reading organized by BEN BINVERSIE, the 2024 Emerging Poet Fellow in the Project category!

From Ben: We are gathering “watershed moments” in the form of poems from around Milwaukee. For the purpose of this project, your “watershed moments” should include sites and experiences of deep connection with water. We are also asking you to share these special moments and places from the perspective of water itself. Write as you imagine the water would speak. If you don’t have any sublime experiences or favorite water spots, that’s ok! Go to a place where you can connect with this primary element and let the water guide you.

You might find yourself alongside a trickling stream or dried-up creek bed, at a bustling beach or forgotten neighborhood swimming pool, beside a shut-off bubbler, or in bed where you cry your eyes out. Your site of inspiration could also be the church where you were baptized, a community garden or local watering hole, or even a rushing sewer drain. You might write from the perspective of the water steeping your chamomile or that which is soaking your dirty dishes. Feel free to explore the uncommon places where we encounter water. Where does water speak to you? You might have to be very quiet to hear.

With this prompt in mind, you are invited to submit up to three “watershed” poems. Just like water takes the shape of its container, your poem can take whatever form it needs, but shorter poems are encouraged (no more than a page). Selected poems will be gathered into a pamphlet, which will include a map of our watershed and be presented at a reading near the water this summer. This casual group reading for contributors to the pamphlet will take place at the north end of Bradford Beach at 1 pm on Aug. 17. All are welcome!

Need more inspiration? Visit our website to read Natalie Diaz’s poem, “The First Water Is the Body,” which is not written in the voice of water, but will put you in a mood to write with water.

Submission guidelines:
1–3 poems, no more than a page each. The deadline for submission is July 29. Poems will be collected via Submittable.

We aim to assemble a collection of poems which hold a wide variety of water encounters and include poets at any stage of their practice. Poems in any language will be considered (English translation appreciated).

When submitting poems, please consider the format of the publication: Poems will be collected together on a folded pamphlet, with each poem limited to a 4-inch width.

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/or mend that connection. Whether mundane or glacial, miniscule or grand, magical or grotesque, language and water flow through us and connect us all. Expressing these moments of connection can be challenging, but it is a good task for poets to undertake—especially here in Milwaukee, the gathering place of the waters.

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.

In addition to these special programs, we will also be hosting the first-ever aCinema Summer Screening Series from July 19–21 (see “Screenings” for more information) and continuing with our Poetry in the Park events (see “Readings + Conversations” for details).

**READINGS + CONVERSATIONS**

**Tue. July 9 | 6:30 PM ($Give What You Can)**

Rain date: Wed. July 10

**IN PERSON** Juneau Park, 900 N. Prospect Ave., at the Solomon Juneau statue

Poetry in the Park featuring readings from STEVEN ESPADA DAWSON, AJAMOU BUTLER, MARGARET ROZGA, and 2024-25 Milwaukee Youth Poet Laureate ALEENA AHMED

This season of outdoor readings is made possible with support from Juneau Park Friends and the National Endowment for the Arts.

**STEVEN ESPADA DAWSON** is from East Los Angeles. The son of a Mexican immigrant, he is a former Ruth Lilly Fellow and Wisconsin Institute for Creative Writing Fellow. His poems appear in many journals and have been anthologized in Best New Poets, Pushcart Prize, and Sarabande’s Another Last Call. He lives in Madison, Wisconsin, where he serves as Poet Laureate.

**AJAMOU BUTLER** is a motivational speaker, a community activist, educator, spoken word artist, and most importantly, a father. His most recent awards and accomplishments include a 2-year contract with Marquette University Upward Bound teaching a creative writing course, being awarded by Madison365 as one of the 2017 top 35 most influential African Americans in Wisconsin, and his continued partnership with the city-wide school district of La Crosse, WI. He was inspired to write Destined To Be Me after he discovered the startling data about the lack of representation of Black and Brown children in children’s books. After founding Heal the Hood MKE in 2012, Ajamou committed himself to creating positive and uplifting images of Black and Brown people living in inner city communities. As a Milwaukee native, he has spent more than half of his life working in and serving the community and people that he loves.


Born in New York, **ALEENA AHMED**, a Bengali-American poet and a student at Nicolet High School, was recently selected to serve as the 2024–25 Milwaukee Youth Poet Laureate. Aleena has lived in both America and Bangladesh, where she has found home in the sound of rain and freshly cut coconuts. Although she is an only child, Aleena always had an abundance of extended family and cousins where she grew up, surrounded with lively, passionate conversation and a vibrant home atmosphere. Aleena’s multicultural upbringing has greatly influenced her perspective as a writer and deepened her appreciation of her identity. While she adores the arts in every form, Aleena has found herself most intrigued by poetry, where she seeks to push and bend the boundaries of language. Aleena hopes to inspire other young women such as herself, and
**It Can’t Happen Here—Again**

In 1936, *It Can’t Happen Here*, a stage adaptation by Sinclair Lewis of his own bestselling novel, opened simultaneously on 21 stages in 17 states across America on October 27th, one week before that year’s presidential election. It served as a warning against the rise of fascism in America.

*It Can’t Happen Here—Again*, a new stage adaptation by Writers for Democratic Action, is both an homage to the 1936 production as well as a call to action now, in 2024. The work will be presented in abbreviated form on multiple stages in multiple cities around the country on July 19, and we invite you to join us in the park for this special Milwaukee staging, which will feature a troupe of actors including Flora Coker and others TBA on our website in the coming weeks.

**Fri. July 19 | 1 PM** (Open to the public)

*IN PERSON* at Garden Park, on the corner of Locust St. and Bremen St.

**It Can’t Happen Here—Again**

**Thurs. Aug. 8 | 6:30 pm CDT**

*ONLINE* on Zoom

The Friends of Lorine Niedecker will host a reading by the poets published in the Summer 2024 Solitary Plover. Poets will read their work from the newsletter and share a favorite poem of Niedecker’s.

**THE FRIENDS OF LORINE NIEDECKER** is dedicated to preserving and expanding the legacy of Lorine Niedecker. Our organization offers access to research archives and educational materials, and publishes *The Solitary Plover*, a semiannual newsletter, and *What Region*, a monograph series.

**Tue. Aug. 13 | 6:30 PM** ($Give What You Can)

Rain date: Wed. Aug. 14

*IN PERSON* Juneau Park, 900 N. Prospect Ave., at the Solomon Juneau statue

**Poetry in the Park** featuring readings from SIWAR MASANNAT, SOHAM PATEL, R.B. SIMON, and TY NEWCOMB

*This season of outdoor readings is made possible with support from Juneau Park Friends and the National Endowment for the Arts.*

**SIWAR MASANNAT** is a Jordanian writer. The author of *cue: poems* (Georgia Review Books/UGA Press, 2024) and *50 Water Dreams* (Cleveland State University Poetry Center, 2015), Masannat is the managing editor of the African Poetry Book Fund and *Prairie Schooner*. Masannat holds a Ph.D. in English from UW–Milwaukee.

**SOHAM PATEL** is the author of the poetry collections *to afar from afar* (The Accomplices, 2018), *ever really hear it* (Subito, 2018 [winner of the 2017 Subito Prize, chosen by Mathias Svalina]), and *all one in the end—water* (Delete, 2023) and the chapbooks *and nevermind the storm*, *New Weather Drafts* (Portable Press @Yo-Yo Labs), *in airplane and other poems* (Oxeye Press), and *Riva: A Chapter* (Kitchen–Shy Press). Recent poetry has appeared in *Interim*, *Under-belly*, and *Prairie Schooner*.

**R.B. SIMON** (she/her) is a queer, black, disabled writer who has been published in multiple journals, among them *Emerge Literary Journal*, *pacificREVIEW*, the *Poetry Coop*, *Strange Horizons*, *Literary Mama*, *CALYX*, and *Obsidian*. Her chapbook, *The Good Truth*, was released in July 2021 from Finishing Line Press, and her full-length collection, *Not Just the Fire*, was published in March 2023 from Cornerstone Press. Her third book, *Bird, Bone, Blood*, demonstrate the power of language as a tool to challenge conventional thought.
**TY NEWCOMB** is a Ph.D. student at UWM finishing his third year. Ty is originally from the gulf coast of Louisiana where he first fell in love with fish, bugs, birds, and all sorts of non-human animal life. He mostly writes about these critters and the ever-vanishing natural world around them. Ty’s work has been seen in *Denver Quarterly, Stonecoast, Marathon, Into the Void, saltfront,* and is upcoming in *Artful Dodge.*

**TASNEEM JASSAR** is a Palestinian writer and poet. She graduated from UW–Milwaukee with a Creative Writing bachelor’s degree and a minor in Women and Gender studies. She hopes that the words she writes and shares inspire others and give them a deeper insight into themselves and the world they live in. Her poetry often includes themes of motherhood, sisterhood, and Palestinian storytelling.

**KRYSTAL LANGUELL** lives in Chicago, where she works as a non-profit administrator. She is the author of four books of poetry, most recently *Systems Thinking with Flowers,* selected by Rae Armantrout as the winner of the first fonograf editions book contest and published in early 2022.

**ALEX NIEMI** is a writer and award-winning translator. Her translations include *For the Shrew and Hekate* by Anna Glazova, as well as *The John Cage Experiences* by Vincent Tholomé. She is also the author of the poetry chapbook *Elephant.* Her translation work has been supported by the

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**Thurs. Sept. 5 | 7 pm CDT**

($Give What You Can)  
*HYBRID* In person at Woodland Pattern and livestreaming via Crowdcast

Join us to celebrate **TASNEEM JASSAR**’s term as **Milwaukee Emerging Poet Fellow** in the Practice category! Tasneem will share writing developed over the past several months with mentoring poet **Ae Hee Lee**.

**TASNEEM JASSAR** is a Palestinian writer and poet. She graduated from UW–Milwaukee with a Creative Writing bachelor’s degree and a minor in Women and Gender studies. She hopes that the words she writes and shares inspire others and give them a deeper insight into themselves and the world they live in. Her poetry often includes themes of motherhood, sisterhood, and Palestinian storytelling.

**MATHIAS SVALINA** is the author of eight books, most recently *Thank You Terror,* published by Big Lucks Books. His first short-story collection, *Comedy,* will be published later in 2024. Svalina was a founding editor of Octopus Books and has led writing workshops in universities, libraries, community spaces, and in prisons. Since 2014 he has run a dream delivery service, traveling around the country to write and deliver dreams to subscribers. With the Dream Delivery Service he has worked with the Denver Museum of Contemporary Art, the Poetry Foundation, and the University of Arizona Poetry Center, and has been featured on NPR’s *Morning Edition,* *Hyperallergic,* and the BBC World News.

**KRYSYAL LANGUELL** lives in Chicago, where she works as a non-profit administrator. She is the author of four books of poetry, most recently *Systems Thinking with Flowers,* selected by Rae Armantrout as the winner of the first fonograf editions book contest and published in early 2022.

**ALEX NIEMI** is a writer and award-winning translator. Her translations include *For the Shrew and Hekate* by Anna Glazova, as well as *The John Cage Experiences* by Vincent Tholomé. She is also the author of the poetry chapbook *Elephant.* Her translation work has been supported by the

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**Tue. Sept. 10 | 6:30 PM ($Give What You Can)**  
Rain date: Wed. Sept. 11  
*IN PERSON* Juneau Park, 900 N. Prospect Ave., at the Solomon Juneau statue

**Poetry in the Park** featuring readings from **MATHIAS SVALINA, KRYSYAL LANGUELL, ALEX NIEMI, and JORDAN DUNN**

*This season of outdoor readings is made possible with support from Juneau Park Friends and the National Endowment for the Arts.*
When I cut into tri-
Angles the fruit I’ll
Take to our outing
Event we planned
Rivers ago I know
My sharp knife’s
Edge will show
Lingers in echo
Oppositions we
Negotiate
JORDAN DUNN is the author of *Physical Geography as Modified by Human Action* (Partly Press) as well as various chapbooks and ephemeral prints including *Common Names*, *Reactor Woods*, and *A Walk at Doolittle State Preserve*. A second collection, *Notation*, is forthcoming from Thirdhand Books. He lives with his family in Madison, Wisconsin, where he edits and publishes Oxeye Press.

ASHLEY WILLIAMS is a writer based in Milwaukee who has published poems in *Untold Stories Magazine* and *Pink Salt Art Collective Zine* volumes II and III. Her poetry topics range from gender, the black experience, personal experience, surrealism, and sci-fi. *A N*gga Writes Shakesperean* (Pitymilk Press) is her first chapbook and the second volume in the LOTUS Untold Stories chapbook series.

PITA DANIELS is a writer and artist based in Viroqua, Wisconsin, who has published poems in *Untold Stories Magazine* and whose poem “The words wrote me into the day,” won the inaugural Adult Creative Power Poetry Award from *Arts for All Wisconsin*. *Blood Lines* (Pitymilk Press) is his first chapbook and the third volume in the LOTUS Untold Stories chapbook series.

CONCERTS

**Thurs. Aug. 15 | 7 pm CDT** ($10)
*HYBRID* In person at Woodland Pattern and livestreaming via Crowdcast

*Formations Series for New and Improvised Music* presents sets featuring **TONY CATANIA** (tenor sax) and **WILL MITCHELL** (synthesizers), who will each be joined by other musicians, to be announced.

**Thurs. Sept. 19 | 7 pm CDT** ($10)
*HYBRID* In person at Woodland Pattern and livestreaming via Crowdcast

*Formations Series for New and Improvised Music*, with performers to be announced.

LOTUS Legal Clinic is a Milwaukee-based nonprofit dedicated to serving survivors of sexual violence and human trafficking by providing free and comprehensive legal services as well as therapeutic arts programming. LOTUS’ services are trauma-informed, survivor-centered, and dedicated to protecting the integrity, dignity, and human rights of its clients.
all the dying petals gather your names. i wilt at your mention, conjure desire escaping belly to sound. i ask those damn sepals to do their work:

hold up the dead. love by the skin of teeth. let mine be as sharp as a cutter bee’s

tryst with a leaf, turning from one solitary home to another. let me fill this place with honey, be

wind to your kindling, in a moment here tell me, if i grow you a fire what care will i be?

from cue: poems (Georgia Review Books/UGA Press, 2024)
($Give What You Can)
*IN PERSON* at Woodland Pattern

Join us for the first-ever aCinema Summer Screening Series, featuring a weekend of six programs curated by TAKAHIRO SUZUKI and JANELLE VANDERKELEN! We are thrilled to welcome them back to the gallery for this special, condensed presentation, which comprises aCinema's Season 8.

Screenings will take place at 7 PM on Friday; 3 PM, 5 PM, and 7 PM on Saturday; and 5 PM and 7 PM on Sunday.

The first two screenings will feature 17 works selected from the aDifferent Program open call held this spring, which received nearly 200 submissions from around the globe. The weekend will then move into four additional curated screenings including works by ASAKO UJITA, AYLA DMYTERKO, GELARE KHOSHGOZARAN, PANU JOHANSSON, VICTORIA VERSEAU, and more!

A beautiful accordion-fold program produced by Woodland Pattern and Split Fountain Press will be available for purchase in commemoration of this event. More information about this publication, and about the screenings, is forthcoming on our website.

R.B. SIMON

Little Star

You had no way of knowing as you found yourself launched into dark, frozen space, speeding through the circumgalactic medium, blasting through cosmic debris, searching for a galaxy of your own in which to grow, how astonishing the journey would be. For what are we born knowing?

The scent of who bore us and the deep darkness of womb, which is nothing if not a tiny galaxy born to birth a star,

I had no way of knowing as my universe expanded stretch marks snaking my belly as I twisted, yielded, bore and breathed all I had into your ultimate rejection, as I became your supernova, a launch towards a place I can only pray is big enough to hold you.

How can we know what we don’t? What seemed at the time like collision, like the dying of planets, like extinction, was only the face of creation, the spreading of your spiral arms.
The night sky over the marshlands across from the house in Arizona, and the lemon tree and rosemary bushes that my grandmother planted in that backyard decades ago. I had several of the most difficult days of my life in those places, and also had some of the loveliest moments of peace.

Accompanying the relief prints is my artist’s book, *in the midst*, which comprises intaglio prints, handmade paper, and beeswax. The book also depicts this specific period of my life, and with the change in printing method and medium these prints create an interactive, tactile experience. Each page turned changes the landscape as you move through the book, offering the viewer a glimpse into how I felt while moving through this period of slow growth. *in the midst* represents some of my more difficult moments, when the world felt muted, and the road ahead seemed hazy. The works in this exhibition reflect that time in my life, as I view it now looking back four years later. Each piece captures a particular perspective of the relationship between tranquility and turmoil, and serves as a reminder that growth is not linear, and sometimes healing happens when you least expect it.

**PARKER MARKIN** (he/him) is a printmaker and book artist currently located in Milwaukee. Born and raised in Southern California, Markin spent several years living in Oregon and Washington before relocating to Wisconsin to attend the Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design, where he received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in 2024. Recent exhibitions include *faux real* (2022), Var 5th Street; *Woodland Pattern: Then As Now* (2022), the Layton Gallery at MIAD; *Echoes & Ripples* (2023), Milwaukee City Hall; and *Luminous Matrix* (2023), Grove Gallery. For more, check out Markin’s Instagram account @parkermarkin.

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**EXHIBITIONS**

*and now i am lost in it*, work by PARKER MARKIN

**Reception:** Sat. June 29 | 6-8 PM
**On View:** June 6–August 11

Before moving to Wisconsin in 2020, I spent eighteen months splitting my time between my parents’ house in Southern California and my grandparents’ vacant vacation home in Arizona. This was a period of emotional growing pains for me, with each location providing its own challenges. In Arizona I was physically isolated in a way I had never experienced before, in a two-square-mile town where I didn’t have a job and didn’t know anybody. I spent most of my time baking bread and having anxiety attacks. In California I was an adult living in my parents’ home again after seven years away, which was emotionally isolating in a way that reminded me of being fifteen years old. In both places, making art was one of the few things that helped me process what I was experiencing and actually made me feel like a human person. When I ended up back in California full time, after realizing I might not make it back again if I kept spending long stretches alone in Arizona, my studio became the only space I felt truly comfortable in. It was barely more than a shed in my parents’ backyard, but I could sit on the floor and listen to my music and paint my little heart out all day, which was exactly what I needed in that moment.

*the dairy queen parking lot at 3:47 on a tuesday afternoon* is a collection of reductive relief prints that are inspired by the landscapes I was surrounded by during those months. The view of my mother’s vegetable garden and fruit trees from my studio, the bluest blue sky stretching forever behind a rest stop in the middle of the desert where I stopped halfway to have a panic attack in my car.
JACKIE VALADEZ (b. 1994) is an artist based in Milwaukee. She primarily works with 2-D works on paper and mixed-media sculpture, focusing on objects of play and the exploration of self in a quest for transfiguration. Valadez earned her BFA in New Studio Practice from the Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design in 2019. Her work has been exhibited both nationally and internationally, including at Meow Moon (2021) at Rudimento (Quito, Ecuador), Perrita (2021) at Antes de Cristo (Hermosillo, México), Sower of Thistles (2021) at Dungeon (Detroit), Lábilmente (2022) at Biquini Wax EPS (Mexico City, Mexico), and Lux (2023) at Charm School Projects (New York, NY).

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.

Sept. 28 & 29 | 12-7 PM (Open to the public)  
*IN PERSON* at Woodland Pattern

Doors Open Milwaukee

Join us for Doors Open Milwaukee! Visitors to Woodland Pattern will be able to enjoy Lemon Balm, work by Marissa Jezak and Jackie Valadez on view in our gallery, as well as our carefully curated and nationally recognized collection of poetry, small-press literature, and ephemera, including limited-run broadsides, chapbooks, zines, and other handmade items.

Fri. July 26, Aug. 30, & Sept. 27 | 7 PM  
($Give What You Can)  
*IN PERSON* at Woodland Pattern

Open Mic: resound return

Warm weather is an excuse to explore all manner of exteriors and then turn from the heat to interior oasis, and no, it’s not a mirage—you’re invited to the soft picnic. resound return is hosted the last Friday of every month. Register upon arrival; reading begins at 7:10 PM.
**Wed. July 3, 17, & 31; Aug. 14 & 28; and Sept. 11 & 25 | 6-7:15 pm CDT (Open to the public)**

*ONLINE* on Zoom

**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

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**Tues. July 2 & 30; Aug. 13 & 27; and Sept. 10 & 24 | 6-7 PM (Open to AAPI)**

*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 nourishment—to 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 back-and-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.
Responding to the unspeakable in real time, Joudah offers multiple ways of seeing the world through a Palestinian lens—a world filled with ordinary desires, no matter how grand or tragic the details may be—and asks their reader to be changed by them. The sequences are meditations on a carousel: the past returns as the future is foretold. But “Repetition won’t guarantee wisdom,” Joudah writes, demanding that we resuscitate language “before [our] wisdom is an echo.” These poems of urgency and care sing powerfully through a combination of intimate clarity and great dilations of scale, sending the reader on heartrending spins through echelons of time. […] is a wonder. Joudah reminds us “Wonder belongs to all.” [Alexa]

Mandible Wishbone Solvent by Asiya Wadud (Phoenix Poets, 2024)—The poetry of Mandible Wishbone Solvent is situated in the space of bridges, fragmentary overlays, spectral reach, and the desire to keep reaching. Asiya Wadud’s poems engage in this act, not to stake a claim or to fasten themselves, but to hold fragments together in order to offer possibilities for connection and extension. Throughout the collection lies an acknowledgment that any hold will drift, meander, and find new paths, with each separation making space for new entanglements. Drawing on a keen interest in tactility and ekphrasis, Wadud mines the repetition and extension that comes with any fractured state of existence and considers the nature of a residual and roving we. The book concludes with two prose pieces that dwell on the concepts of “isthmus” and “drift,” respectively, which offer further grounds for contemplation and provide a frame for the poems. [Lewis]

Notes on the Cinematograph by Robert Bresson (NYBR Classics, 2016)—Notes on the Cinematograph distills the essence of Bresson’s theory and practice as a filmmaker and artist. He discusses the fundamental differences between theater and film; parses the deep grammar of silence, music, and noise; and affirms the mysterious power of the image to unlock the human soul. This book, indispensable for admirers of this great director and for students of the cinema, will also prove an inspiration, much like Rilke’s Letters to a Young Poet, for anyone who responds to the claims of the imagination at its most searching and rigorous. [Antonio]

A Library of Light by Danielle Vogel (Wesleyan University Press, 2024)—When Danielle Vogel began writing meditations on the syntax of earthen and astral light, she had no idea that her mother’s tragic death would eclipse the writing of that book, turning her attention to grief’s syntax and quiet fields of cellular light in the form of memory. Written in elegant, crystalline prose poems, A Library of Light is a memoir that begins and ends in an incantatory space, one in which light speaks. As Prageeta Sharma writes, A Library of Light is “a compassionate reflection on self-integration, architecture, sight, vision, and illumination, built from the affordances of language.” [Jenny]

The Clearing by JJJJJerome Ellis (Wendy’s Subway, Second Edition, 2023)—JJJJJerome Ellis’s The Clearing asks how stuttering, blackness, and music can be practices of refusal against hegemonic governance of time, speech, and encounter. [This] volume transcribes and translates his investigation across genres and media, turning to the page to ask: How can a book bear the trace of music, and the racialized, disabled body? Can a book be not just a manuscript, but a glottoscript? Ellis opens space for thinking liberation theoretically, historically, and lyrically. [Marla]

Alt-Nature by Saretta Morgan (Coffee House Press, 2024)—The poems of Alt-Nature move in desert dreams and riverbeds. Here, geography forms the basis of feeling and connection in the American Southwest. Being and becoming along meridians of environmental degradation, globalized/ing militarism, and incarceration, Saretta Morgan thinks through the languages that instantiate violence alongside those which prepare the body for love. [Mike]
About Woodland Pattern

The Book Center

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

Our Mission

Woodland Pattern is dedicated to the discovery, cultivation, and presentation of poetry and the arts. Our goals 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 encourage exchange across the visual, sonic, and literary arts; and to act as a bridge between local and national communities of poets and other artists.

Contact Us:

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www.woodlandpattern.org
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Center Hours:

Tue–Sun. 12–7 PM
Please consult our website for updates.