



31st Annual Poetry Marathon & Benefit

In person & Online



EVENTS

JAN. — ●

MAR. ● 2025

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTORS

If you took a picture from the moon you could see

the ring in the pond

the ring around my daughter & around my sister swimming

—Eleni Sikelianos, from *Make Yourself Happy*

One monumental year is roaring toward another, and in the particular breath-catching instance of writing this letter, we are pulling back to realize that Woodland Pattern is swinging through a remarkable moment: We are now coming into our 45th year of existence, having incorporated as a nonprofit in September of 1979 and with our doors opening to the public in February of 1980. While so many factors of life contain uncertainty, we know this to be absolutely true: Woodland Pattern would not be here without you. Thank you immensely for continually enlivening this ongoing reality with your visions and gifts.

We hope to see many of you in the first months of the year, most especially at the **31st Annual Poetry Marathon** on January 25th and 26th at Saint Kate—The Arts Hotel in downtown Milwaukee. Lunch and dinner are complimentary on both days for ticketed attendees and readers, and we have a block of discounted rooms available for those who would like to stay overnight. We'll also be broadcasting the entire event live and sharing readings from poets who are unable to be with us in person. Please turn the page for more details!

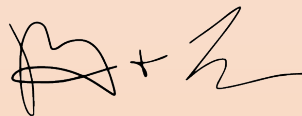
And, with thanks to your contributions at our September Brunchraiser, we are happy to have applications open once again for our **Milwaukee Youth Poet Laureate** and **Emerging Poet Fellowship** programs, and to bring to you two more electric seasons of the **Formations Series of New and Improvised Music** and the **Alternating Currents Live** series. **Jay Mollerskov** continues to impressively stretch the boundaries of Formations, encouraging collaborations between poets and musicians, and **Hal Rammel** never fails to curate in for ACL exceptional talent both new and established.

Many more programs also await you, including two NEA-sponsored events: On February 6th, we are excited to once again host a virtual celebration for **the release of**

the African Poetry Book Fund's chapbook box set; this annual reading introduces us to notable new African poets every time. Then, on March 22nd, we will welcome the phenomenal transdisciplinary artist **JJJJJerome Ellis**, who will also have an exhibition on view in the gallery from February through June alongside five other artists gathered in partnership with **SPACE**, a national stuttering advocacy organization.

Finally, if you're looking to share your own poems or hear from the Milwaukee community as the year carries on, we encourage you to drop in on the last Friday of most months for our open mic, **resound return**. We're taking off January for the Marathon and February off for inventory, but we assure you that we'll be ready to welcome you back in March. November's event was completely packed.

Swoop in, stay near,



Jenny Gropp & Laura Solomon
Executive Directors

SPECIAL EVENT

31st Annual Poetry Marathon

Sat. & Sun. Jan. 25 & 26

10 am–10 pm CST, both days

HYBRID In person in the Arc Theater at **Saint Kate—The Arts Hotel** (139 E. Kilbourn Ave., Milwaukee) and livestreaming via Crowdcast

COME SHARE THE JOY!

If your spirit is in need of a little cheer, mark your calendar right now for Woodland Pattern's 31st Annual Poetry Marathon!

Woodland Pattern's Marathon is a life-affirming celebration of voices from every corner of our community. As the baton passes from poet to poet, hour after hour, you will hear from children and seniors and people of every age group in between; from writers of varied heritages, backgrounds, and experiences; from Milwaukeeans, Wisconsinites, and from people across the country and globe; from poets writing in diverse languages (including invented ones); and from poets at every stage of their practice—from those sharing their work for the first time and from those who have spent a lifetime doing so. More than any singular performance, it is this range of voices and the equal attention each one receives that most deeply inspires us, year after year.

In addition to poetry addressing every subject imaginable, be prepared to also enjoy live music, screenings of moving-image works, and some special surprises. **Performances will take place in the Arc Theater at Saint Kate and will also be livestreamed via Crowdcast.** Lunch and dinner, catered by Saint Kate, will be provided for day- and weekend-pass holders, and for all participants. Discounted hotel rooms at Saint Kate for Marathon-goers are also available.

Please visit our website to book a room and/or to purchase advance tickets. Tickets may also be purchased at the event. You will also find on our website a full program schedule and links for sponsoring poets and livestreaming the Marathon from home.

In addition to being an extraordinary event and beloved tradition, the Poetry Marathon serves as a community-driven fundraiser. Participating poets attempt to raise \$50. Those contributions are then matched by a sponsor

for the hour and supplemented by major sponsorships. All funds raised are then reinvested right back into our community through hundreds of free programs that support creativity at every stage of human life.

We hope you will join us for Woodland Pattern's biggest event of the year and for what promises to be an electrifying weekend of live poetry and performance!

TICKET OPTIONS:

Day Pass—includes one full day of Marathon performances + lunch and dinner
General Public \$40 | *Students* \$35

Weekend Pass—includes two full days of Marathon performances + lunch and dinner both days
General Public \$75 | *Students* \$70

Late-Night Special—admission after 7 PM for Saturday or Sunday (does not include meals)
General Public \$15 | *Students* \$10

PLEASE NOTE:

Students: Student passes must be purchased at the event.

Youth Chaperones: Chaperones and family members of participating youth poets receive free entry on Saturday.

Poet Sponsors: Those who sponsor poets at more than \$100 are entitled to a free weekend pass!

Event Sponsors: Event sponsors also receive a certain number of weekend passes depending on the sponsorship level. Please refer to our sponsorship packet for details or give us a call!

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

This year's Poetry Marathon is generously presented by Canto-level sponsors **WISCONSIN'S OWN LIBRARY**, a unique collection of Wisconsin authors and illustrators owned by The General Federation of Women's Clubs—Wisconsin, with funding provided by the Gwendolyn M. Schultz Charitable Trust; and by **DEWITT LLP** with **MATTHEW HILLS & ANGELA VORAS-HILLS**.

Saturday's performances are sponsored at the Sonnet-level by **THE ASPHODEL NEWS** and on Sunday by **EASTERN BOHEMIAN BREWERY**.

Ode-level sponsors include **JUNEAU PARK FRIENDS** and **KARL GARTUNG & ANNE KINGSBURY**, with individual hours presented by Haiku-level sponsors **Anonymous, Karen Campbell & Kevin Ronnie, Brenda Cárdenas & Roberto Harrison, City Point Press, Genre: Urban Arts, Peter Goldberg, Paula Kiely, Riverwest Currents, Riverwest Realty, Margaret Rozga, Jill Sebastian & Jake Fuller, WE Energies, The Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets, and Mary Gute Witte & Ned Witte.**

Sponsorships are still available at Ode and Haiku levels! If you are interested in sponsoring this year's Marathon, please give us a call at 414-263-5001 or email us at info@woodlandpattern.org.

OPPORTUNITIES

2025 Milwaukee Youth Poet Laureate Competition



The search for Milwaukee's next Youth Poet Laureate has begun! **Submissions are open and will close on March 30, 2025.** Learn more by visiting woodlandpattern.org/youthpoetlaureate

Eligibility: Applicants must be a Milwaukee County resident or enrolled in a Milwaukee County high school, in either their freshman, sophomore, or junior year.

Application process: Submit 5 poems + a CV outlining extracurricular activities, volunteer work, and/or academic honors. Finalists will be selected in April and receive performance coaching to help them prepare for a juried event in May.

The Milwaukee Youth Poet Laureate will receive a \$500 book allowance; a paid summer internship with Woodland Pattern; mentorship from our staff;

opportunities to perform, facilitate workshops, and compete for regional and national titles; and pathways to connect with local organizations to spotlight social causes.

The Milwaukee Youth Poet Laureate (MYPL) program was established in 2022 to identify and mentor powerful youth poets with a history of civic and community engagement. Part of the national affiliation of Youth Poet Laureate programs administered by Urban Word NYC, this initiative is equally invested in supporting Milwaukee students and educators through free workshops and curricula that combine critical thinking and creative writing. This program is made possible in part with support from the Amazon Literary Partnership, the Brandon Gelzer Memorial Fund at the Greater Milwaukee Foundation, the Milwaukee Public Library, and the MPS Foundation for the Arts & Humanities.

Want help with your poems or CV?

Youth poets seeking guidance can contact us for advice on generating new work, editing existing poems, preparing a dynamic CV, and submitting the application. Contact us at youth@woodlandpattern.org for more details.

Milwaukee Emerging Poet Fellowships



Woodland Pattern is accepting applications for the third year of our Milwaukee Emerging Poet Fellowship program, with awards given in Practice and Project. Each fellowship will run from February 2025 through Fall 2025. Apply or learn more by visiting woodlandpattern.org/opportunities. **The application deadline for both categories will be January 10.** Fellows will be notified before the end of the month.

Eligibility: Open to Milwaukee poets between the ages of 20 and 35, who are not currently enrolled in an MFA or PhD program.

Practice Fellowship: The Practice Fellowship category seeks to support an emerging poet in their writing practice through an 8-month long mentorship with an established poet. Mentor and fellow will meet monthly one-on-one to workshop writing, discuss poetry and poetics, and explore publication opportunities. Meetings will take place in person and virtually. During the fellowship period, the recipient will also receive a \$500 book allowance, may attend any Woodland Pattern workshop free of cost, and will be invited to give a culminating reading. Poets with existing manuscript projects are particularly encouraged to apply in this category. This year's mentoring poet will be announced soon on our website and social media, and via email.

Project Fellowship: The Project Fellowship category seeks to support an emerging poet in need of financial and administrative support for an ambitious literary project such as a reading series, small press, literary journal, or interdisciplinary exhibition. Both new and existing projects are eligible for consideration. The recipient will receive ongoing support from our staff, along with a \$1,500 project budget. Poets with a track record in DIY literary publishing and programming are particularly encouraged to apply in this category.

Drawing inspiration from the Mary L. Nohl Fund Emerging Artist Fellowship and the Poetry Project's Emerge Surface Be program, Woodland Pattern established the Milwaukee Emerging Poet Fellowship in 2022 to bring greater visibility and much-needed early support to Milwaukee poets through mentorships, access to opportunities that encourage a poet's practice and development, and investment in literary projects for which younger poets frequently lack resources. The Milwaukee Emerging Poet Fellowship program also seeks to make available alternative avenues of support for emerging poets outside traditional academic-track poetry programs and environments.

READINGS + CONVERSATIONS



Thurs. Feb. 6 | 7 pm CST (\$Give What You Can)
ONLINE on Zoom

Poetry Reading presented in partnership with the **African Poetry Book Fund** celebrating *Kumi: New-Generation African Poets, A Chapbook Box Set* (Akashic Books, 2024), edited by **Kwame Dawes** and **Chris Abani**.

Featuring readings from each of the poets included in the box set: **Adams Adeosun, Feranmi Ariyo, Connor Cogill, Sarpong Osei Asamoah, Nurain Qládèjì, Nome Emeka Patrick, Qhali, Dare Tunmise, and Claudia Owusu.**

This ten-piece, limited-edition box set—an African Poetry Book Fund (APBF) project—features the work of nine new African poets, and is part of a series started in 2014 to ensure the publication of up to a dozen chapbooks every year by African poets through Akashic Books. The series seeks to identify the best poetry written by African poets working today, and it is especially interested in featuring poets who have not yet published their first full-length book of poetry.

Adams Adeosun is a Nigerian writer and has an MFA degree from the Iowa Writers' Workshop. Their work has been published in *Transition, Catapult, Litro UK, Limbe to Lagos: Nonfiction from Cameroon and Nigeria*, and elsewhere.

Feranmi Ariyo is a storyteller from Nigeria. He won the inaugural Edition of the Punocracy Prize for Satire in 2019 and was selected as one of the Fellows of the 2022 Edition of the Unserious Collective Fellowship. His works

have been featured on *African Writer*, *Kalahari Review* and *Rattle's* Poetry Podcast amongst others.

Sarpong Osei Asamoah is a Ghanaian poet of Akyem and Ewe descent. His poems have been featured in *SAND Journal*, *Poetry Ireland Review*, *Protean* online, *Bacopa Literary Review*, *Tampered Press Magazine*, *Lolwe*, *Agbowo Magazine*, *Olongo Africa Magazine*, *20.35 Africa: Anthology of Contemporary Poetry* and elsewhere. He has worked at LOATAD and Tampered Press. He is a poetry editor at CGWS, and the producer and host of CanonPodcast.

Born in Cape Town at the turn of the century, **Connor Cogill** is a queer poet and journalist. He graduated from Stellenbosch University, first majoring in English and philosophy, then completing a postgraduate degree in journalism. Connor's poetry has been shortlisted for the New Contrast National Poetry Prize and the Brunel International African Poetry Prize, and longlisted for the Sol Plaatje European Union Poetry Award. More of his work can be found in the *Johannesburg Review of Books*, *New Contrast*, and *Jack Journal*.

Nurain Oládèjì lives and works in Lagos, Nigeria. His work has appeared in *Transition*, *Acumen*, *Olongo Africa*, *Dunes Review*, the *Chaffin Journal*, and elsewhere.

Claudia Owusu (Nana Yaa Akyaa) is a Ghanaian-American poet, filmmaker, and essayist based in Columbus, Ohio. Claudia's work engages the spaces that Black women and girls occupy, namely their relationship with safety, carefreeness, and self-ownership. She is deeply invested in personal narratives of Black girlhood and womanhood, through which she is learning to reclaim and carve space for herself. Her writing has appeared in *Vogue Magazine*, *Narrative Northeast*, *Clockhouse Magazine*, and *Brittle Paper*. Her short films have screened at Nowness, the New York African Film Festival, Urbanworld, FilmAfrica, and Indie Memphis. She is currently an MFA candidate in Creative Nonfiction at The Ohio State University.

Nome Emeka Patrick is a Nigerian poet. His work has been published or is forthcoming in *POETRY*, *Narrative Magazine*, *AGNI*, *TriQuarterly*, *West Branch*, *Waxwing*, *Poet Lore*, *Beloit Poetry Journal*, *Black Warrior Review*, *A Long House*, and elsewhere. A Best of the Net, Best New Poets, and Pushcart Prize nominee, he emerged third place in the Frontier Poetry Award for New Poets in 2020. His manuscript *We Need New Moses. Or New Luther*

King was a finalist for the 2019 Sillerman First Book Prize for African Poets. He writes from Providence, Rhode Island, where he is currently an MFA candidate in Poetry at Brown University. Say 'Hello!' on Twitter & IG @nome__patrick.

Qhali is a social justice activist, bilingual writer, poet, indigenous languages publisher, and sustainable development practitioner. She is a 2022 Atlantic Fellow for Racial Equity, and the founder of Loss-iLahleko which has produced South Africa's first multilingual anthology series and guidebook that explores gender-based violence in all the official languages in South Africa. She holds a masters degree in creative writing from Rhodes University and qualifications in public policy, development studies, and economics. Her poetry and short stories have appeared in literary magazines and journals including the *Red Wheelbarrow*, *Agbowo Magazine*, the *Kalahari Review*, and the *New Contrast Literary Journal*. She currently oversees research and development at the Qhama Social Housing Institute and the Steve Biko Precinct, an organisation that combines social housing with art and liberation history. She is the editor of their liberation heritage book series, *My Story - Your Heritage*. Qhali is a mother of two children who inspire her work, and currently lives between Johannesburg and the Eastern Cape province, where she was born.

Dare Tunmise is a poet, essayist, and software developer from Nigeria. His works have appeared or are forthcoming in the *Voice Lux Journal*, the *Sublunary Review*, *Madness Muse Press*, the *Kalahari Review*, *African Writer Magazine*, the *Nigerian Tribune*, *Akewi Arts House*, and elsewhere. He can be found on Twitter @Dare_Tunmise

Fri. Feb. 7 | 7 pm CST (Open to the public)
IN PERSON at Woodland Pattern

United We Read is the UW–Milwaukee Graduate Creative Writing Program’s student–faculty reading series that takes place in venues throughout the community. This reading will feature **Timothy Knapp, JT Lachausse,** and **Sophie Nunberg,** along with Professor **Valerie Laken.**



Wed. Feb. 19 | 7 pm CST (\$Give What You Can)
HYBRID In person at Woodland Pattern and
livestreaming via Crowdcast

Reading featuring **Jessica Alexander**, author of *Agnes, We’re Not Murderers*, forthcoming from Clash Books, and **Ray Levy**, author of *School* (University of Alabama Press/FC2).

Jessica Alexander’s novella, *None of This Is an Invitation* (co-written with Katie Jean Shinkle) was published by Astrophil Press in summer 2023. Her story collection, *Dear Enemy*, was the winning manuscript in the 2016 Subito Prose Contest, as judged by Selah Saterstrom. Her novel, *Agnes, We’re Not Murderers*, is forthcoming from Clash Books.

Ray Levy is the author of *School* (University of Alabama Press/FC2), *Negative Space* (Spiral Editions), *A Book So Red* (Caketrain), and *Necessary Objects* (Tree Light Books). Short fictions appear or are forthcoming in *ANMLY*, *Black Warrior Review*, *DIAGRAM*, *Fence*, *Tarpaulin Sky*, *Territory*, *SPORAZINE*, *Western Humanities Review*, and others. The recipient of an NEA Fellowship in Prose, Levy is currently Assistant Professor of English at Illinois State University and a founding editor at *Dreginald*. He lives in Bloomington, IL.

Thurs. Mar. 13 | 6:30 pm CDT (Open to the public)
ONLINE on Zoom

The Friends of Lorine Niedecker will host a reading by the poets published in the Winter 2025 *Solitary Plover*. Poets will read their work that was published 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.



Fri. Mar. 14 | 7 pm CDT (\$Give What You Can)
HYBRID In person at Woodland Pattern and
livestreaming via Crowdcast

Poetry Reading featuring **Kitt Healy**, author of *The Hundredth Hour* (Finishing Line Press, 2024), and **Jenny Benjamin**, author of *Painted Women in the Walls* (Finishing Line Press, 2025).

Kitt Healy is a mother, writer, facilitator, and movement strategist for sustainable agriculture organizations. She is of Irish, German, and Sicilian settler descent and currently lives on the present and ancestral lands of the Ho–Chunk people in Madison, WI. She has an MS in Agroecology from UW–Madison and a BA in Political and Social Thought from University of Virginia. When her hands are not writing, they are likely busy planting seeds, holding a sign at a protest, sprinkling herbs on something tasty, or wrangling her two rascally children.

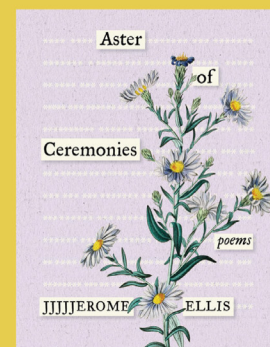
Jenny Benjamin is the author of the following novels: *This Most Amazing* (Armida Books, 2013), *Enhanced*, *Corrupted*, and *Redeemed: The Terrian Trilogy* (Ananke Press: October 2021, July 2022, January 2023), and

JENNY BENJAMIN

Bat Love

Cradled in the instinct of not just yet
you are here and I am holding on like a hoary bat
with frost-tinged fur and worry claws clinging
taut with need and frenzied yes I can hold on forever
you under me as we dangle from a tree branch with earth
steady below these three babies beneath with easy turn
of mouth to teat to drink from my dissolving self of years
ago how well-rested I looked in photographs and daisy
like open-faced to the days without the little ones stitched
to me on the underside weary and afraid I might slip up
and ruin you but here my hands run with sinew to wings
so then I may not fly but it's a trajectory of maybe I can
hold on until the universe makes its way to one point
for a little while more the cells of my membranes and yours
will hold out for this blink of time we call life

Heather Finch (Running Wild Press, June 2022). Over forty of her poems have appeared in journals and magazines, and she has two poetry chapbooks: *More Than a Box of Crayons* (Finishing Line Press, 2018) and *Midway* (No Chair Press, 2018), which earned second place in the 2017 No Chair Press contest. A Milwaukee resident, she is a former educator of underserved youth and is now a freelance writer with her business, JB Communications, LLC, and an independent contractor with People First Wisconsin, a statewide self-advocacy organization for people with disabilities. She teaches novel-writing and poetry classes with the Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing.



Sat. Mar. 22 | 7 pm CDT (\$Give What You Can)
HYBRID In person at Woodland Pattern and
livestreaming via Crowdcast

JJJJerome Ellis will present portions of *Aster of Ceremonies*, their latest transdisciplinary project. Using saxophone, electronics, and voice, they will perform excerpts from “Benediction,” a devotional song cycle attending to 18th- and 19th-century Black runaway slaves who stuttered. This lecture-performance is an ongoing attempt to, in the words of critic Hortense Spillers, “hear [slavery’s] stutter more clearly.”

JJJJerome Ellis (any pronoun) is a disabled Grenadian-Jamaican-American artist, surfer, and person who stutters. The artist works across music, performance, writing, video, and photography. JJJJerome has the great privilege of being married to poet-ecologist Luísa Black Ellis. They live in a monastery on a creek in traditional Chesapeake and Nansemond territory. JJJJerome dreams of building a sonic bath house!

JANUARY 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1 CLOSED	2	3	4
5	6	7 Ping Pong	8 Readshop	9	10 Emerging Poet Fellowship Closes	11
12	13	14	15	16 Formations	17	18
19	20	21 Ping Pong	22 Readshop	23	24	25 Poetry Marathon
26 Poetry Marathon	27	28	29	30	31	

FEBRUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1 Manuscript Workshop
2	3	4 Ping Pong	5 Readshop	6 African Poetry Book Fund	7 United We Read	8 Manuscript Workshop
9 Nomka Enkhee Exhibition Closes	10	11	12	13	14	15 Manuscript Workshop
16 Alternating Currents Live (ACL)	17	18 Ping Pong	19 Jessica Alexander Ray Levy	20 Formations	21	22 Manuscript Workshop
23 CLOSED for Inventory	24 CLOSED for Inventory	25 CLOSED for Inventory	26 CLOSED for Inventory	27 CLOSED for Inventory	27 CLOSED for Inventory	MAR 1 Manuscript Workshop

MARCH

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1 CLOSED for Inventory
2 CLOSED for Inventory	3 CLOSED for Inventory	4 CLOSED Ping Pong	5 CLOSED Readshop	6 CLOSED for Inventory	7 CLOSED for Inventory	8
9	10	11	12	13 <i>Solitary Plover</i>	14 Kitt Healy Jenny Benjamin	15
16	17	18 Ping Pong	19 Readshop	20 Formations	21	22 JJJJJerome Ellis
23	24	25	26	27	28 resound return	29
30 MYPL Closes	31					
ACL						

JJJJEROME ELLIS

Prayer To My Stutter #2

You restore
a living
shoreline
between word
and silence

WORKSHOP



Saturdays, Feb. 1–Mar. 1 | 1–4:30 pm CST
1 Introduction Call & 4 Feedback Calls | \$300
ONLINE on Zoom

Poetry Manuscript Circle, led by poet and filmmaker
KP Kaszubowski

The *Poetry Manuscript Circle* offers each participant focused and affirming feedback, supportive community, and the opportunity to develop careful and caring writing critique skills. This workshop is meant to create a container outside of academia for working writers to engage deeply with their peers' work, and to receive guidance before their next step in the revision process for a collection of poetry.

This workshop will consist of 5 live Zoom calls, each one between 2–3.5 hours, as well as weekly manuscript reading and note-taking. Each week the circle will read and comment on 2 poetry manuscripts. This manuscript circle is limited to 8 participants and open to all writers, regardless of previous publishing record. All calls will take place over Zoom.

Who this workshop is for:

- Poets with full-length or chapbook manuscripts ready for peer feedback.
- Poets seeking clarity on manuscripts ready for the next step in the revision process.
- Poets seeking developmental feedback from other poets.
- Poets interested in supporting other poets' manuscript journeys.
- Poets looking for a non-academic workshop environment.

- Poets who benefit from writer-centered workshoping techniques.

Who this workshop is not a good fit for:

- Writers whose manuscripts are mostly written in prose.
- Writers looking for corrective or line edits.
- Writers looking for advice on publishing their work.
- Writers who feel their manuscripts are complete and do not need feedback at this point in time.
- Writers seeking feedback on individual poems.
- Writers who want to workshop performance aspects of their writing.

KP Kaszubowski is a multi-disciplinary creator who focuses on the long format: full-length and chapbook poetry collections, feature length films, and full-length plays. She's guided dozens of creatives and writers through to the end of their long term projects. In the past few years, one of her greatest joys has been hosting Manuscript Calls and Thesis Showers (like a baby shower but for poetry MFA candidates) for writer-centered feedback and guidance.

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 producer, her first feature length documentary *My First and Last Film* (director: Tracey Thomas) premiered in 2019. Her previous poetry has been published (sometimes as Kristin Peterson) by *TriQuarterly*, *Biscuit Hill*, *pitymilk press*, *ANMLY*, *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.

Zoom Schedule:

The Poetry Manuscript Circle will meet live on Zoom for 5 calls on the following dates: Feb. 1, 8, 15, & 23, and Mar. 1.

All live calls will take place from 1–4:30 pm CST.

Further Details:

- Poetry manuscripts should be primarily in English and written by the participant. Translated and collaborative works will not be accepted for this first session.
- Each call will focus on 2 participants' manuscripts.
- Every participant is expected to have read the manuscripts thoroughly and to have written a manuscript response before the call. These manuscript responses can take many forms, and this will be discussed in the introduction call.

Application Guidelines: Winter Session 2025

This Poetry Manuscript Circle is open to everyone—whether they have published poetry or not. Applicants must be available for the entirety of the dates and times and are expected to commit their energy to close reading and note-giving of each of their peer participants' manuscripts throughout the session.

Applications Open: Dec. 10, 2024.

Application deadline is Jan. 15, at 11:59 pm CST.

Applicants will be notified by Jan. 18, end-of-day.

Visit the Woodland Pattern website to apply!

CONCERTS

Thurs. Jan. 16 | 7 pm CST (\$10)

HYBRID In person at Woodland Pattern and livestreaming via Crowdcast

Formations Series for New and Improvised Music

Set 1—**Wilhelm Matthies** (solo mosesa)

Set 2—**Wavefiler** (Steve Zydek) (solo electronic music)



Sun. Feb. 16 | 7 pm CST

(\$15 General | \$13 Members)

HYBRID In person at Woodland Pattern and livestreaming via Crowdcast

Alternating Currents Live presents **Jim Baker** and **Chad M. Clark**, who have performed together in the past in an improvised trio with Chicago drummer Bill Harris. This event marks the first time the two will perform together as a duo. Induced by the danger of the art form, the players will seek to shape acoustical anomalies and extemporized musical elements into meaningful form. Jim will be playing some combination of synth, midi piano, and viola, while Chad will be rotating between guitar and amplified zither.

Jim Baker has been living in Chicago and playing and writing music there for several decades, has played thousands of gigs, appeared on more than 80 recordings, played with a bunch of people whose names may be familiar to you (even if they might be otherwise mostly unknown to people who do not follow the 'improv' scene). His most recent previous performances at Woodland Pattern were with Swiss saxophonist Urs Leimgruber in 2019, and, a few years earlier, with Mars Williams, Brian Sandstrom, and Steve Hunt playing as Extraordinary Popular Delusions, an improvising group which has played, for the past fifteen years, almost every Monday evening at Beat Kitchen, in Chicago.

Chad M. Clark is a Chicago-based guitarist and improviser. Immersed in the instrument's physical properties, his palette is a measure of size, encompassing both finite and infinite magnitudes. He has performed with Mark Feldman, Ayako Kato, Bill Harris, Damon Smith, Viv Corringham, Weasel Walter, Norman Long, Carol Genetti, and Jack Wright.

Thurs. Feb. 20 | 7 pm CST (\$10)

HYBRID In person at Woodland Pattern and
livestreaming via Crowdcast

Formations Series for New and Improvised Music

Set 1—**Out(sider)** (**Jay Mollerskov & Jim Schoenecker**
on modular synthesizers)

Set 2—**Tim Russell trio**

Thurs. Mar. 20 | 7 pm CDT (\$10)

HYBRID In person at Woodland Pattern and
livestreaming via Crowdcast

Formations Series for New and Improvised Music
featuring poets & improvising musicians

with **Chelsea Tadeyeske**, **Nick Ramsey**, and 2-3 more
poets TBA. Poets will be accompanied by **Dr. Mark
Mantel** (drums) and **Barry Paul Clark** (bass)



Sun. Mar. 30 | 7 pm CDT

(\$15 General | \$13 Members)

HYBRID In person at Woodland Pattern and
livestreaming via Crowdcast

Alternating Currents Live presents **Beautifulish**

Katie Young and **Sam Scranton** make music together as Beautifulish. They fuse free improvisation with composed musical material. Tightly interwoven gestures smudge into expansive textures. Rainbows of noise produced through haptic and breathy friction create proximity and space, timbre and harmony, pitch and rhythm. Young and Scranton use electronics and amplification to augment their primary instruments; Young plays bassoon; Scranton, percussion. The result is an integrated sound world that exists as its own beautifulish thing.

EXHIBITIONS & ARTIST TALKS



As I Fall Asleep to My Great Aunt's Fable of a Herder Boy, work by **Nomka Enkhee**

On view through Feb. 9, 2025

What is a memory? What is a gesture? What is a tale? What is remembering? What is drawing? What is a line? What is a stick? What is a pause? What is listening? What is a faraway drift? What is forgetting? What is comfort? What is discomfort? What is never forgetting? These are a few thoughts and questions cemented in the artist Nomka Enkhee's mind, whether asleep or awake or neither. Divulging secrets and memories in this exhibition, she reveals tales, gossip, dreams, and stagnancies revolving memory. Drawing from her childhood in Mongolia, she seeks redemption and freedom, with an obsessive recounting of oral history racing through her mind, especially at night. Through drawing and painting, she excavates memory into translated artifacts on paper. Closing her eyes she sees the bluest sky and the vastest mountains, and listening closely, she can hear the stories again.

Nomka Enkhee is an artist working in sculpture, drawing, text, and performance. She explores structures of migration through material, repetition, and language. Her practice involves collecting domestic artifacts and reconfiguring them into sculptures that speak to themes of loss and gain, heartbreak, and luck. Drawing and text serve the artist as an anchor for language and an interrogation of translation rooted in ancestral oral traditions. In 2022, she founded Pferde Books, further exploring drawing, text, and translation through the form of publishing and distribution.

A group exhibition curated by JJJJJerome Ellis

On View: Feb.—Jun. 2025

See **READINGS + CONVERSATIONS** for events related to this exhibition.

Hi! My name is **JJJJJerome Ellis**. I'm a disabled Grenadian–Jamaican–American artist and person who stutters. I'm honored to be working with **Julia Leone** and **Aidan Sank** of the stuttering advocacy organization **SPACE** to curate a group exhibition at Woodland Pattern. The show will run from February through June 2025 and will feature artwork by myself, along with five incredible artists who stutter: **Intisar Abioto, Willemijn Bolks, Alexandra Martins, Wendy Ronaldson,** and **Olivia Simmons**. These artists inspire us with their inventiveness, humor, activism, and rigor. SPACE and I are so excited to connect Woodland Pattern's audiences with the work of these amazing artists.

SPACE (Stuttering, People, Arts, Community, Education) is a nonprofit organization working to create more space for stuttering and change the way the world listens. SPACE creates a more inclusive and accessible world for people who stutter through arts, education, and advocacy. We specialize in facilitating professional listening workshops for businesses and schools to teach better listening to all through the lens of stuttering, offering unique online community and arts programs for people ages 7–23 who stutter, and carrying out advocacy initiatives to reduce stigma and increase stuttering representation in media. Learn more about SPACE at www.spacestutter.org.

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.

Fri. Mar. 28 | 7 pm CDT (\$Give What You Can)
IN PERSON at Woodland Pattern

Open Mic: resound return

The force that freezes waterfalls shortens days and brings frost patterns to windows. Don't let the winter doldrums win—put on that extra thermal layer and let poems thaw the icicle freeze. **resound return** is hosted the last Friday of March. Register upon arrival; reading begins at 7:10 PM.

KITT HEALY

What It Is, and Maybe Isn't

Before words come to limit you

your mind is a hawk

your mind is a mirror

your mind is a myth of origins

What you know is wind

through dry seed heads, bent

reeds, snow circles cast

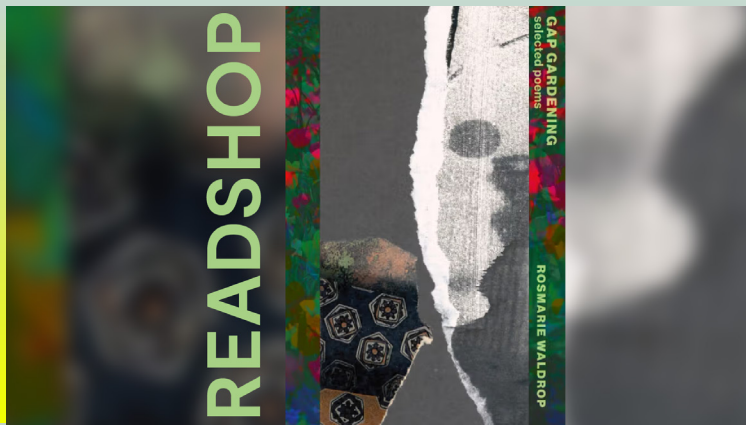
on the burnt prairie

A marble of perfect knowingness

growing slowly less luminous

evermore beautiful

as it becomes a living planet



Wed. Jan. 8 & 22, Feb. 5, and Mar. 5 & 19 |

6–7:15 pm CST (Open to the public)

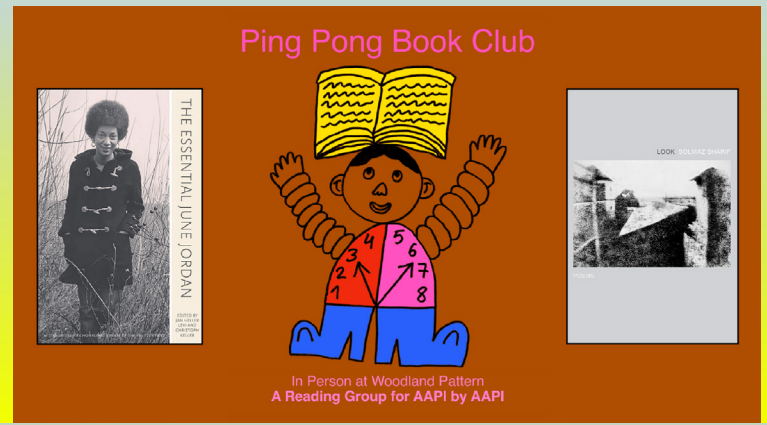
ONLINE on Zoom

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.

Beginning in January, the group will read **Gap Gardening: Selected Poems by Rosmarie Waldrop**, which “traces Waldrop’s growing sense of writing as an exploration of what happens in between. Between words, sentences, people, cultures. Between fragment and flow, thinking and feeling, mind and body. For the first time, we have a complete and clear view of the work of a great and inquiring, brave and indispensable poet.”

Gap Gardening will be followed by Waldrop’s translation of *The Book of Questions* by Edmond Jabès, “a meditative narrative of Jewish Experience, and, more generally, man’s relation to the world . . . Even though words imply ambiguity and lies, they are the home of the exile. A book becomes the Book, fragments of the law that are in some way unified, where past and present, the visionary, and the common place, encounter each other. For Jabès every word is a question in the book of being. Man defines himself in the world against all that threatens his existence—death, the infinite, silence, that is, God, his primal opponent. How can one speak what cannot be spoken?”



Tues. Jan. 7 & 21, Feb. 4 & 18, Mar. 4 & 18

6–7 pm CDT/CST (Open to AAPI)

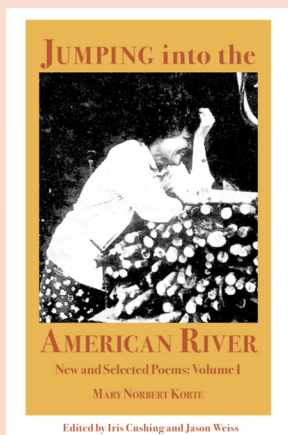
IN PERSON at Woodland Pattern

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 **The Essential June Jordan** (ed. **Jan Heller Levi and Christoph Keller**) and **Look** by **Solmaz Sharif**.

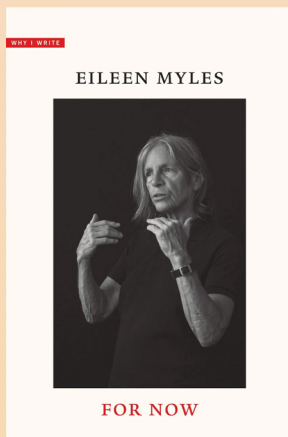
The Ping Pong Book Club recognizes the term AAPI as a huge umbrella that covers many global diasporic communities including different languages, religions, and cultures. We understand this term, designed to encompass such a vast and multifaceted group, has its limitations, and we want to create a community 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



***Jumping into the American River* by Mary Norbert Korte (Argos Books, 2023)**—Mary Norbert Korte (1934–2022) grew up on Mystic Street in Oakland, California. At 17, she took nun’s vows with the Dominican Catholic Sisterhood. Korte attended the 1965 Berkeley Poetry Conference, encountering Robert Duncan, Charles Olson, Robert Creeley,

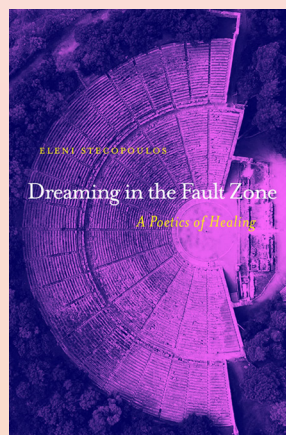
Jack Spicer and Lew Welch, among other poets. This foray into San Francisco Renaissance poetry altered the course of Korte’s life. She befriended Michael McClure, David Meltzer, Spicer, and Welch, and developed her own mystically-charged poetics. Korte formally left the Dominican order in 1968 and embarked on the lay life of the poet. She became heavily involved in environmental activism, fighting tirelessly to protect a large area of redwood forest at the Noyo headwaters, which is now permanently preserved by the Mendocino Land Trust. Korte was a prolific, compassionate, often hilarious poet. *Jumping into the American River* is the first collection of her poetry spanning over fifty years. [Chuck]



***For Now* by Eileen Myles (Yale University Press, 2021)**—In this raucous meditation, Eileen Myles offers an intimate glimpse into creativity’s immediacy. With erudition and wit, Myles recounts their early years as an awakening writer; existential struggles with landlords; storied moments with neighbors, friends, and lovers; and the textures and identities of cities and the country that

reveal the nature of writing as presence in time. For Myles, time’s “optic quality” is what enables writing in the first place—as attention, as devotion, as excess. It is this chronologized vision that enables the writer to love the world as it presently is, lending love a linguistic permanence amid social and political systems that

threaten to eradicate it. Irreverent, generous, and always insightful, *For Now* is a candid record of the creative process from one of our most beloved artists. [Antonio]



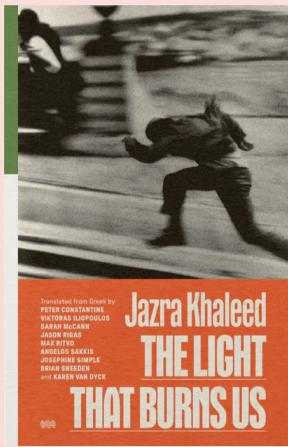
***Dreaming in the Fault Zone* by Eleni Stecopoulos (Nightboat, 2024)**—In the era of the “chronic acute” long predating COVID-19, Eleni Stecopoulos set out to investigate the imagination, aesthetics, and ideology of healing—its mysteries and mystifications, its many channels and codes. Fusing lyric inquiry with cultural criticism, *Dreaming in the Fault Zone* explores art’s

treatment of our conditions at a time of both increased cynicism about healing and longing for it. Stecopoulos talks to physicians, poets, psychotherapists, disability activists, ethnographers, spiritual seekers; curates performances and takes part in community rituals; and documents pilgrimages and visits therapeutic landscapes. Whether writing about the poet H.D.’s psychoanalysis with Freud or madness and apartheid in Bessie Head’s novel *A Question of Power*, the salve of demagogues or a global alliance of people with contested illnesses, Stecopoulos confronts the poetics and politics of affliction, empathy, memory, and survival. Weaving together esoteric scenes and everyday practice, with flashes of humor, these essays travel in a space of impasse and unending experiment. [Lewis]



***Ripcord* by Nate Lippens (Semiotext(e), 2024)**—In *Ripcord*, Nate Lippens continues his meditations on escape and connection, class, sex, and intimacy. Stuck in Milwaukee, the narrator cobbles together a living by bartending and catering weddings, enmeshed in a semiaffair with a younger, married man. Cruising apps while tallying his youthful romantic failures, he

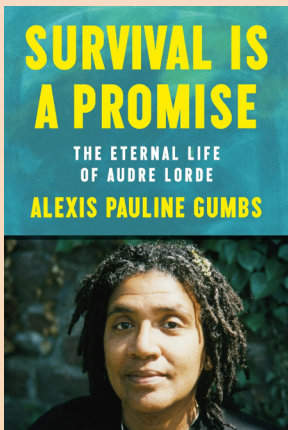
fantasizes about disappearance but finds both solace and frustration in his friendships with Charlie, an aging punk who was prominent in the 1990s Chicago queercore scene, and Greer, a painter who never broke through but continues making work. [Mike]



***The Light That Burns Us* by Jazra Khaleed (World Poetry, 2024)**—The English-language debut of Jazra Khaleed, one of Greece’s most radical poetic voices—now in an expanded edition—is an unapologetic indictment of the wrongs faced by immigrants, by a rudderless young European generation, and by leftist activists in a Greece and a Europe blighted by

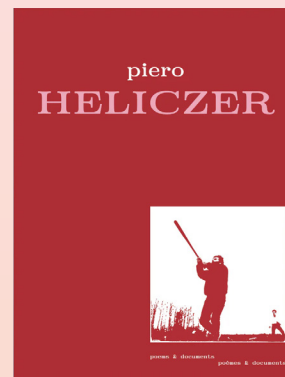
neoliberal policies of deregulation and privatization. Born in Chechnya in 1979, Khaleed is a poet who seems very Greek and not Greek at all. Employing elegant rhythms, contemporary street speech, and flashes of Byzantine and New Testament Greek, his poetry reflects a refined erudition and control that Greek readers have trouble equating with a man named Jazra. Khaleed’s poems—written at times from a very personal perspective, and at others from that of an objective outsider, but always disruptive, vehement, electrifying—tear the untroubled reader back to a reality that may well be dangerous.

[Alexa]



***Survival Is a Promise: The Eternal Life of Audre Lorde* by Alexis Pauline Gumbs (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2024)**—This new biography of Audre Lorde by Alexis Pauline Gumbs is a captivating celebration of a beloved writer who self-identified as “Black, lesbian, mother, warrior, poet.” Unconventional in structure as well as tone, the book features

brief chapters arranged by topic—Lorde’s fondness for bees; locks of her hair now preserved at Spelman College; her photographs of St. Croix after Hurricane Hugo—along with Gumbs’s ecological, geological, and cosmic reflections. Those who know Gumbs’s writing will recognize these reflective modes as a hallmark of her oeuvre (and yes, this is a call to seek out more Gumbs as well!). Her persuasive close readings of Lorde’s work create a virtuous circle, shining a light on how the poet’s life generated her poems, and on the political and emotional resonance of her work. [Jenny]



Poems & Documents / Poèmes & Documents by Piero Heliczer (After 8 Books, 2021)—Poet, editor, filmmaker, actor, founder of The Dead Language Press and of the Paris Filmmakers Cooperative, Piero Heliczer (1937–1993) was an essential yet secret agent of the 1960s and ’70s counterculture. In the

course of his nomadic existence in Rome, New York, London, Amsterdam, Paris, and Préaux-du-Perche, where he spent the last few years of his life, he met and worked with a constellation of avant-garde writers, forging friendships with figures from the Beat Generation and the British Poetry Revival as well as the New York art scene. At the crossroads of many underground experiences, Heliczer’s name appears in books dedicated to the artists and poets he collaborated with during his lifetime—names by the likes of Gregory Corso, Barbara Rubin, Andy Warhol, Jack Smith, Ira Cohen, or The Velvet Underground, a band he participated in creating with his friend Angus MacLise. This myth obscures the fact that Heliczer was first and foremost a poet. Today, this part of his work is overlooked; it is all the more difficult to encounter because Heliczer himself never collected it. Favoring the circulation of his works rather than their archiving, he was committed to the production of mobile forms—flyers, broadsides, and other ephemera—and preferred public readings and performances to the finished form of the book. The present volume gathers a significant number of Heliczer’s poetic works through facsimile reproduction of his contributions to more than thirty periodicals published between 1958 and 1979. This collection isn’t “complete”—but it makes available again poems that, in some cases, never circulated after their initial publication. [Laura]

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 also 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.

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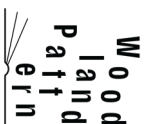
CENTER HOURS:

Tue-Sun. 12-7 PM

Please consult our website for updates.

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