

SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 11 AM–5:45 PM

THE LANTERN
LENFEST CENTER FOR THE ARTS

The Wild I: An Exploration of Water and Poetry



Image by Dorothea Lasky

Jordan Abel, Abigail Chabitnoy, CAConrad, Matthea Harvey,
Douglas Kearney, Shane McCrae, Luna Miguel, Cecilia Pavón, Celina Su,
Phillip B. Williams, and Lynn Xu. Organized by Dorothea Lasky, Writing.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS AND ENGAGEMENT | SPRING 2020

In this symposium, poets will explore the symbol of water, and its many ramifications in their lives. Water, both ephemeral and timeless, carries with it its own history. It connects us to our ancestors and to our future. Most importantly, it is a form that is intrinsically connected to poetry, with poetry's watery and associative, fluid, electrified, and occult properties. During this daylong event, we will consider: What is a poetry of water? What does a world look like without water? How can poets save the planet?

Schedule

11 am: Welcome and Introduction

Dorothea Lasky

11:15 am–12:45 pm: Poetry, Water, Place, Space, and Time

Abigail Chabitnoy, Matthea Harvey, Celina Su

1–2:30 pm: The Eternal Lake

CAConrad, Luna Miguel, Phillip B. Williams

2:45–4:15 pm: The Fluid Cycle of Electricity and Magic

Jordan Abel, Douglas Kearney, Cecilia Pavón

4:30–5:45 pm: Poetry Readings

Jordan Abel, Abigail Chabitnoy, CAConrad, Matthea Harvey, Douglas Kearney, Shane McCrae, Luna Miguel, Cecilia Pavón, Phillip B. Williams, and Lynn Xu

JORDAN ABEL

Jordan Abel is a Nisga'a writer from Vancouver. He is the author of *The Place of Scraps* (winner of the Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize), *Un/inhabited*, and *Injun* (winner of the Griffin Poetry Prize). Abel's latest project *NISHGA* (forthcoming from McClelland & Stewart) is a deeply personal and autobiographical book that attempts to address the complications of contemporary Indigenous existence and the often-invisible intergenerational impact of residential schools. Abel's work has recently been anthologized in *The New Concrete: Visual Poetry in the 21st Century* (Hayward), *The Next Wave: An Anthology of 21st Century Canadian Poetry* (Anstruther), *Best Canadian Poetry* (Tightrope), and others. Abel's work has been published in numerous journals and magazines—including *Canadian Literature*, *The Capilano Review*, and *Poetry Is Dead*—and his visual poetry has been included in exhibitions at the Polygon Gallery, UNITT/PITT Gallery, and the Oslo Pilot Project Room in Oslo, Norway. Abel completed a PhD at Simon Fraser University and works as an Assistant Professor in the Department of English and Film Studies at the University of Alberta where he teaches Indigenous Literatures and Creative Writing.

ABIGAIL CHABITNOY

Abigail Chabitnoy earned her MFA in poetry at Colorado State University and was a 2016 Peripheral Poets fellow. Her poems have appeared in *Hayden's Ferry Review*, *Boston Review*, *Tin House*, *Gulf Coast*, *LitHub*, and *Red Ink*, among others. She is a Koniag descendant and member of the Tangirnaq Native Village in Kodiak, Alaska, grew up in Pennsylvania, and currently resides in Colorado where she is a consultant for a company that works to support tribal self-determination. Her debut poetry collection, *How to Dress a Fish*, was recently released from Wesleyan University Press.

CACONRAD

CAConrad is the author of nine books of poetry and essays, the latest is titled *While Standing in Line for Death* (Wave Books, 2017). A recipient of a Pew Fellowship in the Arts for Literature, they also received *The Believer Magazine* Book Award and The Gil Ott

Book Award. CA is currently working on a (Soma)tic poetry ritual titled “Resurrect Extinct Vibration,” which investigates effects the vibrational absence of recently extinct species has on the body of the poet and the poems. They teach regularly at the Sandberg Art Institute in Amsterdam.

MATHEA HARVEY

Matthea Harvey was born in Germany, spent her childhood in England, and moved to Milwaukee with her family when she was eight years old. She attended Harvard as an undergraduate and the MFA program in creative writing at the University of Iowa. Her collections of poems include *Pity the Bathtub Its Forced Embrace of the Human Form* (2000), *Sad Little Breathing Machine* (2004), *Modern Life* (2007), *Of Lamb* (2011), and *If the Tabloids Are True What Are You?* (2014). She has also published two children’s books: *The Little General and the Giant Snowflake* (2009, illustrated by Elizabeth Zechel) and *Cecil the Pet Glacier* (2012, illustrated by Giselle Potter). In 2017, Harvey was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship.

DOUGLAS KEARNEY

Douglas Kearney is a poet, performer, and librettist who has published six books that bridge thematic concerns such as politics, African-American culture, masks, the Trickster figure, and contemporary music. Kearney’s most recent work, *Buck Studies*, was awarded the CLMP Firecracker Award for Poetry, the Theodore Roethke Memorial Poetry Award, and the silver medal for the California Book Award in Poetry. Kearney’s collection of writing on poetics and performativity, *Mess and Mess and*, was a Small Press Distribution Handpicked Selection; and *Patter* examines miscarriage, infertility, and parenthood. He has received a Whiting Writer’s Award, was named a Notable New American Poet by the Poetry Society of America, and has been awarded fellowships from Cave Canem and The Rauschenberg Foundation. His work has appeared in *Poetry*, *Iowa Review*, *Boston Review*, and *Indiana Review*, and anthologies, including *Resisting Arrest: Poems to Stretch the Sky*, *Best American Poetry*, *Best American Experimental Writing*, and *What I Say: Innovative Poetry by Black Poets in America*. Raised in Altadena, CA, he lives with his family

a little west of Minneapolis, MN and teaches creative writing at the University of Minnesota–Twin Cities.

DOROTHEA LASKY

Dorothea Lasky is an Associate Professor of Writing and Director of Undergraduate Studies at Columbia University School of the Arts. She is the author of six books of poetry and prose: *Animal* (Wave Books, 2019), as well as *ROME* (W.W. Norton/Liveright) and *Milk, Thunderbird, Black Life*, and *AWE*, all out from Wave Books. She is also the author of several chapbooks, including the forthcoming *Snakes* (Tungsten Press) and *Poetry is Not a Project* (Ugly Duckling Presse). Her poems have appeared in *The Paris Review*, *The New Yorker*, *American Poetry Review*, and *Boston Review*, among other places. She is the co-editor of *Open the Door: How to Excite Young People About Poetry* (McSweeney's) and is a Bagley Wright Lecturer on Poetry. She holds a doctorate in creativity and education from the University of Pennsylvania and has been educated at Harvard University, the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, and Washington University.

SHANE MCCRAE

Shane McCrae is an Associate Professor of Writing at Columbia University School of the Arts. He is the author of *In the Language of My Captor* (Wesleyan University Press, 2017), which was a finalist for the National Book Award, *The Animal Too Big to Kill* (Persea Books, 2015), *Forgiveness Forgiveness* (Factory Hollow Press, 2014), *Blood* (Noemi Press, 2013), and *Mule* (Cleveland State University Poetry Center, 2011), as well as three poetry chapbooks, and one nonfiction chapbook. His poems have appeared in the *Best American Poetry* series, *Poetry*, *The American Poetry Review*, *Gulf Coast*, and other anthologies and journals, and he has been awarded the Lannan Literary Award, a Whiting Writer's Award, a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts, and a Pushcart Prize. He received an MFA from the University of Iowa Writers' Workshop, a JD from Harvard Law School, and an MA in Literary Studies from the University of Iowa.

LUNA MIGUEL

Luna Miguel (Alcalá de Henares, 1990) lives in Barcelona and is a regular contributor to several newspapers and literary supplements. She is the author of the following poetry books: *Estar enfermo* (2010), *Poetry is not dead* (2013), *La tumba del marinero* (2013), *Los estómagos* (2015) and *El arrecife de las sirenas* (2017), all of them published by La Bella Varsovia. Several selections of her works have been published around the world. She is the author of the nouvelle *Exhumación* (Alpha Decay, 2010), co-written with Antonio J. Rodríguez, and the essay on female masturbation *El dedo. Breves apuntes sobre la masturbación femenina* (Capitán Swing, 2016). The first ambassador to join and support the Womarts project to pursue women's equal share presence in the Arts, her debut novel is *El funeral de Lolita* (PRH-Lumen, 2018). Her latest published work is an essay on feminism and hispanic language literature, *El coloquio de las perras* (Capitán Swing, 2019).

CECILIA PAVÓN

Cecilia Pavón was born in Mendoza, Argentina, in 1973. She has a degree in Literary Theory from Universidad de Buenos Aires. In 1999, she co-founded the independent art space and small press *Belleza y Felicidad*. She works as a literary translator from English and German into Spanish. She has published poetry and short stories in Argentina, Mexico, Brazil, and Chile. She has been translated into English: *A Hotel With My Name* (Scrambler Books, 2015), *Liquorice Candies*; (Scrambler Books, 2016), and *Belleza y Felicidad* (Sand Paper Press, 2014).

CELINA SU

Celina Su was born in São Paulo, Brazil, and lives in Brooklyn. Her first book of poetry, *Landia*, was published by Belladonna in 2018. Her writing includes two poetry chapbooks, three books on the politics of social policy and civil society, and pieces in the *New Times Magazine*, *n+1*, *Harper's*, and elsewhere. Su is the Marilyn J. Gittell Chair in Urban Studies and a Professor of Political Science at the City University of New York.

PHILLIP B. WILLIAMS

Phillip B. Williams is a Chicago native and author of *Thief in the Interior*, winner of the 2017 Kate Tufts Discovery Award and a 2017 Lambda Literary award. He received a 2017 Whiting Award and 2013 Ruth Lilly Fellowship. Williams is the co-editor in chief of the online journal *Vinyl* and currently teaches at Bennington College.

LYNN XU

Lynn Xu is an Associate Professor of Writing at Columbia University School of the Arts. She was born in Shanghai. She is the author of *Debts & Lessons* (Omnidawn, 2013), which was a finalist for the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize, and a chapbook, *June* (Corollary Press, 2006). Her poems have appeared in *Best American Poetry 2008*, *Boston Review*, *Critical Quarterly*, *Hyperallergic*, and elsewhere, and she's performed cross-disciplinary works at the Guggenheim Museum, Sector 2337, the Renaissance Society, 300 S Kelly St, and Rising Tide Projects. She has received awards from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Fulbright Program, and has a BA from UC Berkeley and an MFA from Brown University. Xu is an editor at Canarium Books.

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