

Meet This Year's Participants



JADA ALLEN

Jada Renée Allen is a Black trans writer, educator, & conjurewoman living & working on U.S.-occupied O'odham Jewed, Akimel O'Odham, & Hohokam lands. A 2022 92Y Discovery Poetry Contest winner, Jada is the recipient of fellowships, scholarships, & support from Tin House, Kenyon Review Writers Workshop, Community of Writers, & VONA/Voices, among others. Her work appears in Gulf Coast; Hayden's Ferry Review; Paris Review Daily; Virginia Quarterly Review; & elsewhere. She is from Chicago, IL.



FULLAMUSU BANGURA

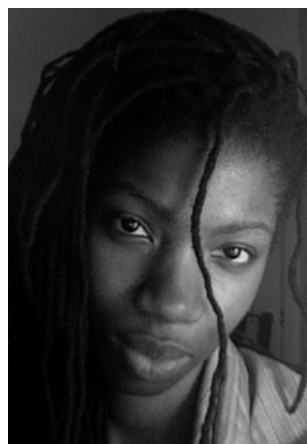
Fullamusu Bangura is a queer writer + visual artist originally from Washington, D.C.. and currently residing in Chicago, Illinois. They are the author of the essay-book "...Considers Lil' Kim's Hard Core." Their poetry has been published in New Delta Review, Apogee Journal, and Southeast Review. In 2020, they were selected as a 2020 Best of the Net Poetry finalist. They are a zinemaker and collagist, using humor and astrology to make sense of a chaotic world.



JARI BRADLEY

Jari Bradley (they/them) is a San Francisco native. They are the recipient of an Inprint C. Glenn Cambor Fellowship and a Cave Canem fellow. Their poems have been published in Callaloo, Virginia Quarterly Review, Academy of American Poets (Poem-A Day), and elsewhere. They are currently a PhD candidate in Creative Writing and Literature at the University of Houston and poetry editor for Gulf Coast Journal.

Website: jaribradley.com



ZAKIA CARPENTER-HALL

Zakia Carpenter-Hall is an American writer, tutor and critic living in the UK. Her reviews and poems have been published in Poetry Wales, The Poetry Review, Wild Court, Magma and elsewhere. Human Ecologies (2021) is her ecopoetry film commissioned by The Scottish Poetry Library in partnership with Africa in Motion Film Festival and Obsidian Foundation. She was editorial intern for Magma 82 Obsidian, a Poetry London mentee, Jerwood Bursary Recipient and London Library Emerging writer. Into the Same Sound Twice (Seren, 2023) is her debut poetry pamphlet.



CHING-IN CHEN

Descended from ocean dwellers, Ching-In Chen is a genderqueer Chinese American writer, community organizer and teacher. They are author of *The Heart's Traffic: a novel in poems and recombinant* (2018 Lambda Literary Award for Transgender Poetry winner) as well as chapbooks *to make black paper sing* and *Kundiman for Kin* :: *Information Retrieval for Monsters* (Leslie Scalapino Finalist). Chen is co-editor of *The Revolution Starts at Home: Confronting Intimate Violence Within Activist Communities*.

Website: www.chinginchen.com



ZAKIYA COWAN

Zakiya Cowan is a Chicagoan with a bachelor's degree in English from Lewis University. Her work has appeared in *Split Lip Magazine*, *Green Mountains Review*, *Spoon River Poetry Review*, the *Chicago Reader*, and *Hobart*. She is the former Managing Editor for *Jet Fuel Review* and Interviews Editor at *Honey Literary*. Cowan is a 2023 Tin House Winter Workshop participant, a 2020 Brooklyn Poets Fellowship recipient, a Best of the Net nominee, and a Best Small Fictions nominee.



ESSAH COZETT DÍAZ

Essah Cozett Díaz is a Liberian-American poet, podcaster, and PhD candidate at the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras. Díaz is currently a senior research fellow of the Diaspora Solidarities Lab. In 2016, she founded *Hermanas del Agua* to create a safe space for femme identifying people to practice strategic self-care. Díaz is also an alumna of Obsidian Foundation and the Young Scholars of Liberia. Her writing has appeared in several international print and online publications.

Website: www.essahcozett.com



MATT FORD

Matt Ford is a writer, artist, and educator from Detroit. They earned their MFA at UC San Diego and are the founder of 5D Publishing, LLC. Currently writing their debut novel, *Rapture In Blue*, their work has been published in *Wall Street Journal*, *HuffPost*, *The Creative Independent*, *Art Journal*, *Chicago Reader*, and elsewhere. They have received fellowships from SAIC, Martha's Vineyard, and the Mellon Foundation, among others. Donate to Matt's Lambda Literary Retreat fund: bit.ly/matt-lambda



KELLY FORDON

Kelly Fordon's latest short story collection *I Have the Answer* (WSUPress, 2020) was chosen as a Midwest Book Award Finalist and an Eric Hoffer Finalist. Her 2016 Michigan Notable Book, *Garden for the Blind*, (WSUP), was an INDIEFAB Finalist, a Midwest Book Award Finalist, Eric Hoffer Finalist, and an IPPY Awards Bronze Medalist. She is the author of three poetry chapbooks and one full-length collection, *Goodbye Toothless House*, (Kattywompus Press, 2019) an Eyelands International Prize Finalist and an Eric Hoffer Finalist.



WHITNEY FRENCH

Whitney French (she/her) is a writer, multidisciplinary artist, and publisher. She is the editor of the award-winning anthology *Black Writers Matter* (University of Regina, 2019) and *Griot: Six Writers Sojourn into the Dark* (Penguin Random House, 2022). Her work has appeared in *ARC Poetry*, *Augur*, *FIYAH*, *WATER Magazine* and elsewhere. Whitney French is a certified arts educator and the co-founder/publisher of *Hush Harbour*, the only Black queer feminist press in Canada. She lives in Toronto.

Website: whitneyfrenchwrites.com



MELINDA GONZÁLEZ

Dr. Melinda González (@lapoetaguerrera), born in Newark, New Jersey with ancestral home in Moca, Puerto Rico, is an Afro-Indigenous poet, anthropologist, professor, and poetry workshop facilitator. She examines the impact of race, class, and gender on disaster distribution, using decolonial and indigenous research methods for environmental justice. She facilitates poetry workshops to help poets, writers, and academics maintain their authentic voice while addressing colonial repression.



DESTINY HEMPHILL

Destiny Hemphill (she/her) is a chronically ill ritual worker and poet, living on the unceded territory of the Eno-Occaneechi band of the Saponi Nation (Durham, NC). She is the author of the poetry collection *motherworld: a devotional for the alter-life* (Action Books, 2023). Her work has also been featured in *Poetry Magazine*, *Southern Cultures*, and the Academy of American Poets' Poem-a-Day series.

Website: destinyhemphill.com



CANDICE JANSEN

Candice Jansen is a New Archival Visions Digital Curatorial Fellow at the Centre for Humanities Research at the University of the Western Cape. In 2022, she was an ACLS African Humanities Post-doctoral Fellow. Her doctoral dissertation was completed at WiSER (Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research), entitled **COLOURED BLACK: The Life & Works of South African Photographers, Cedric Nunn and Ernest Cole (2019)**.



DÉSHAWN MCKEEL

DéShawn McKeel is a Georgia-born, Texas-raised poet and writer. DéShawn's interests and influences include Black Feminist Theory, (Black) Southern and Texan cultures, Black music, surveillance, absurdism, surrealism, and myth and folklore. DéShawn is currently an M.F.A. Creative Writing Candidate at Rutgers University-Newark.



JOSHUA MERCHANT

Joshua Merchant is a Black Queer (they/them) native of East Oakland exploring the realm of love and what it means while processing trauma, loss, and heartbreak. They've had the honor to be awarded the 2023 San Francisco Foundation / Nomadic Press Literary Award for poetry.



DASIA MOORE

Dasia Moore is a Black queer poet and journalist. She is pursuing her MFA in poetry at New York University, where she is a Lillian Vernon fellow and undergraduate creative writing instructor. Dasia's poetry has appeared in publications including *The Offing*, *Autofocus*, and *Stanchion*. Her journalism and essays can be found in *The Nation*, *The Boston Globe*, and others. Dasia was raised in North and South Carolina and now lives in Brooklyn, New York.



SHY-ZAHIR MOSES

Shy-Zahir Moses (they/them) is a Queer Black poet, scholar, and lover working to make it out of Texas. They hold a B.A. in English from the University of Houston and are pursuing an M.F.A. in poetry from the University of Texas at Austin. They spend their free time getting read to by Toni Morrison on Audible, creating new poetic forms, and growing their in-home library.



SAMUELA MOUZAOIR

Samuela is currently a doctoral student studying Educational Psychology. She calls many places home—including Burkina Faso, Colorado, and Michigan, where she currently lives. She enjoys thinking and writing about whimsy, love, speculative fiction, and identity. She is also interested in incorporating Afrofuturism into her scholarship and creative practices.



OLATUNDE OSINAÏKE

Originally from the West Side of Chicago, Olatunde Osinaïke is a Nigerian-American poet, essayist, and software developer. He is the author of *Tender Headed* (Akashic Books, 2023), selected by Camille Rankine as winner of the 2022 National Poetry Series, forthcoming in December 2023. His work has received fellowships and support from Poets & Writers, the Hurston/Wright Foundation, and Kenyon Review Writers Workshop. He lives in Atlanta.



A. ADENIKE PHILLIPS

a. adenike phillips (she/her) is a Black, feminist poet, emerging visual artist, and oral history practitioner. In her work, she is committed to documenting and amplifying the stories of Black people with specific emphasis on Black women. She has received fellowships and/or mentorships from AWP, Hurston/Wright Foundation, Arts by The People and The National Public Housing Museum. Her work has appeared in *The Amistad*, *The Black Fork Review* and *Gulf Stream Magazine*.

Website: www.stalkingfire.com



THERÍ PICKENS

Therí Pickens has published two monographs - *New Body Politics* (Routledge 2014) and *Black Madness :: Mad Blackness* (Duke UP 2019)-and three edited projects - a special issue of *African American Review* on Blackness and Disability (2017), *Arab American Aesthetics* (Routledge 2018), and a special issue of *College Language Association Journal* (2021). Her poetry has appeared in *Langston Hughes Review*, *Prairie Schooner*, *The Ending Hasn't Happened Yet*, *Diode*, *The Journal*, *Black Renaissance/Renaissance Noire*, *Save the Date*, and *Disability Studies Quarterly*.



ANA RODRIGUEZ MACHADO

Ana Rodriguez Machado is a Cuban diaspora writer living in Toronto. Her work has been published or is forthcoming in *PRISM international*, *The Humber Literary Review*, *The Malahat Review*, and elsewhere. Her poems have been finalists for the CBC Poetry Prize, the PEN Canada New Voices Award, and The Malahat Review Far Horizons Prize in Poetry. She was a poet mentor for the Koffler Arts Centre's "in my mother tongue | poetry & portraits." She holds an MFA from the University of Guelph.

Website: anaro.ca



DORSÍA SMITH SILVA

Dorsía Smith Silva is a Pushcart Prize nominee, Best of the Net finalist, Best New Poets nominee, Obsidian Fellow, Poetry Editor of *The Hopper*, and Full Professor at the University of Puerto Rico. Her poetry has recently been published or is forthcoming in *Poetry Northwest*, the *minnesota review*, *Shenandoah*, and elsewhere. She is the editor of *Latina/Chicana Mothering* and the co-editor of seven books. She posts on Twitter @DSmithSilva and CavanKerry will publish her poetry book in 2024.



REBECCA STONER

Rebecca Stoner is a poet and educator living in New York City. An MFA candidate at Rutgers-Newark, her poetry is forthcoming in *Palindrome*. Her work has been supported by the Minnesota Northwoods Writers' Conference.



SNEHA SUBRAMANIAN KANTA

Sneha Subramanian Kanta is a writer and academic. She is the author of the chapbooks *Ghost Tracks* (Louisiana Literature Press, 2020), *Ancestral-Wing* (Porkbelly Press, forthcoming), and *Every Elegy Is A Love Poem* (Variant Lit, forthcoming). She is one of the founding editors of *Parentheses Journal*.

Website: www.snehasubramaniantkanta.com



ANGEL SUTJIPTO

Angel Sutjipto (they/she) was born in Jakarta, Indonesia and have resided on Lenapehoking (aka NYC) for the past 20 years. Angel is a writer, an only child, and aspiring troublemaker who realized that disappointing their immigrant mom did not mean the end of the world. They are an alum of *Voices of Our Nation* (VONA) and Macondo Writers Workshop. Their writing has appeared in *Briarpatch* magazine and *Somewhere We Are Human* anthology.



KALEY WHITE

Kaley is a poet-scholar and digital artist living in Philadelphia, PA. Her work thinks deeply about space making, community building, joy, and identity. She holds a M.S. Ed in Culture, Society, and Education from the University of Pennsylvania and an MA in Political Science.

Follow her ongoing work on Twitter @kaleyy__



TEONA WILLIAMS

Teona Williams's work revolves around Black Geographies, 20th century African American and environmental history, and Black feminist theory. Her current work explores the role of disaster and hunger, in shaping Black feminist ecologies from 1930-1990s. *Race, Space and Policing on the Southside of Chicago 1950-2010*, published by The Antipode in March 2020. Author of the essay "Islands of Freedom: The struggle to desegregate Shenandoah and Great Smoky Mountain National Park 1936-1941" in the forthcoming edited collection *Not Just Green, Not Just White: Race, Justice, Environmental History* which will be released in 2024.