



POETRY FEST

NOVEMBER 4 - 5, 2023

A weekend of poetry featuring Dan Beachy-Quick, Victoria Adukwei Bulley, Andrea Gibson, Carmen Giménez, Linda Hogan, Alice Notley, and more.

Poetry Fest is a dynamic weekend of readings, classes, panels, short craft talks, and celebrations; a mini-festival custom-made for poets and the poetry-curious. We'll be joined by the likes of Alice Notley, Linda Hogan, and Victoria Adukwei Bulley, a panel of writers from *Freeman's*, and beloved, award-winning poets from around town. Whether you're published or simply a fan, come celebrate the wildly diverse, extraordinary world of contemporary poetry with us!

In the morning, register for weekend intensives from André Hoilette and Radha Marcum on Origin Stories and Sense in Poetry. In the afternoon, Poetry Fest attendees can attend panels on The Poetry of Everyday, Poetry Publishing, and Endings and choose from craft talks like Freewriting with Trees, Poetry for Haters, and Writing the Interior with Victoria Adukwei Bulley, Juan J. Morales, and John Freeman (and more). In between, you'll find socializing and local readings, all culminating in two headline events: Saturday's reading and conversation with Alice Notley and Dan Beachy-Quick and Sunday's reading and conversation with Victoria Adukwei Bulley and Linda Hogan.

Here's a visual glance at the schedule; read on for more details on intensives, craft classes, events, and more!



SATURDAY	SUNDAY
9:00 TO 11:30 AM Weekend Intensives	9:00 TO 11:30 AM Weekend Intensives
11:45AM TO 12:15 PM Lunch Reading	11:45AM TO 12:15 PM Lunch Reading
12:30 TO 1:30 PM Music: Poetry of Everyday Life	12:30 TO 1:30 PM Poetry Publishing 101
1:45 TO 2:45 PM Craft & Writing Sessions	1:45 TO 2:45 PM Craft & Writing Sessions
3:00 TO 3:45 PM Local Poets Showcase	3:00 TO 4:00 PM Conclusions Panel with Freeman's
4:00 TO 5:00 PM Write with Dan Beachy-Quick	4:00 TO 4:30 PM Happy Hour + Food Trucks
5:15 TO 6:00 PM The New York School Poets: Talk & Write	4:30 TO 5:30 PM Radiant Quiet: Linda Hogan & Victoria Adukwei Bulley
6:00 TO 7:00 PM Happy Hour + Food Trucks	
7:00 TO 8:00 PM Epic Poetics: Alice Notley & Dan Beachy-Quick	



Scan to learn more!



Two-Day Intensives

Saturday, November 4 and Sunday, November 5

9:00 to 11:30 AM

\$165 for members, \$180 for non-members

Not included in passes

[Follow It To the Head Waters—Poetic Origin Stories](#)

André Hoilette

Ginny Threefoot begins their poem, “Origin Story”: “When my ancestors began the work of me, / I was already old. I was only a child, / I swam as an eel.” What is your origin story? Poems are powerful tools in the creation of our origin stories. They can tell us how we came to be human, community, family, or individual. How do you tell the story of your family, your people, or the story of you through poetry? This poetry intensive will allow you to begin that work. We'll look at crafting the origin story through poetry, and we'll explore examples as well as use session time to write. Come with your stories and curiosity. Some tales, only you can tell.

[Toward Mystery—Poetic Sense Beyond Logic](#)

Radha Marcum

The poet Rumi says, “Put mystery at the center.” Contemporary poet Matthew Zapruder says, “I know a poem is a poem when it has something in it that I don't understand.” Whether through potent, symbolic imagery or through rich tapestries of word-sound, poetry aims to stir readers emotionally and experientially toward intuited meanings that go well beyond logic. In this course, poets can expect readings, discussions, and generative exercises.



Afternoon and Evening Events

Afternoon readings, panels, and craft talks require a pass (which includes everything after 11:30 AM MDT on the select day).

Evening Readings/Conversations are available a la carte. Doors open 30 minutes early, and light refreshments will be available.

Saturday, November 4

11:45 AM to 12:15 PM MDT

Lunch reading with beloved Colorado poets Nicky Beer, Alyse Knorr, and Wayne Miller. Bring a sack lunch, or pick something up from the onsite food truck, [Flavor of Tabasco](#).

12:30 to 1:30 PM MDT

Panel: The Poetry of Everyday Life featuring local musicians Joshua Abyeta (Los Mochetes), Martin Gilmore (Martin Gilmore Trio), Rachael Mccuaig (The Loney Choir), and Clay Rose (Gasoline Lollipops)

Music is often referred to as the universal language, but it's also a poetic language. Considering both music and poetry attend to rhythm, lyrics, and sound, it's no wonder that so many of us begin our love of poetry through music. Join us for this musical panel of writers whose business is the power of words and sound, and hear some great original tunes while we're at it.

1:45 to 2:45 PM MDT

Choose one of our craft talks below!

Poetry for Haters, or Those Who Aren't Poets

with Juan J. Morales

It's clear all writers could use some lyricism in their toolbox, but couldn't everyone benefit from jotting some lines of poetry? This workshop is geared toward poets and non-poets alike, an invitation to embrace the fun and frivolity of playing with words and then bask in the glow of having drafted a new poem.

The Craft of Songwriting

with Martin Gilmore of Swallow Hill

Poetry and songwriting share many things. They both use short structures to express complex ideas, linger on details, and often emote rather than explain. In this session, join musician Martin Gilmore to explore those similarities and discuss how elements of poetry weave their way



into the craft of songwriting, as well as the differences between the two crafts. Attendees will learn the basics of crafting melodies and working within a musical structure to elevate lyrical writing into song.

Truth In Prose: A Conversation

with Richard Froude and Alice Notley

On the eve of the publication of her new book, a collection of essays and talks called *Telling the Truth as It Comes Up*, Richard Froude will lead a discussion with Alice Notley on poetic truths, the possibilities and limits of prose over poems, revolutionary ghosts, narrative and form, and much more, including plenty of audience questions. Copies of *Telling the Truth* will be available for sale.

3:00 to 3:45 PM MDT

Local Poets Reading

Join us for a short afternoon reading with Colorado poets Richard Froude, André Hoilette, Juan J. Morales, and Joy Roulier Sawyer.

4:00 to 5:00 PM MDT

First Water, then Fire, then Mind: Using Earliest Philosophy as Poetic Primer

Dan Beachy-Quick

Using fragments from a variety of pre-Socratic thinkers, we'll examine the generative ancient overlaps between poetry and philosophy. We'll discuss, then pause to write in light of the conversation, and continue on to the next fragment, arriving—by our hour's end—with lines, images, and ideas for a poem that returns poetry to its age-old and ongoing, cosmic work.

5:15 to 6:00 PM MDT

The New York School Poets: An Intro and Conversation

Andrea Rexilius

Psychogeography is defined as “the geographical environment of a particular location, typically a city, considered with regard to its influence on the mind or on behavior.” In this talk, we'll examine psychogeography in relation to the poetics of the New York School poets. We'll extend our sense of “environment” to include consciousness, myth, the long poem, gallery spaces, and sociopolitical identities. We'll consider a variety of poems and poetics by Frank O'Hara, Barbara Guest, John Ashbury, Alice Notley, Bernadette Mayer, and Umbra poets David Henderson, Lorenzo Thomas, and Norman Prichett.



6:00 to 7:00 PM MDT

Happy Hour and food trucks [Flavor of Tabasco](#) and [Lady in the Wild](#) (at our neighbor, [Cohesion](#), which has beer, non-alcoholic beer, and hard seltzer).

7:00 to 8:15 PM MDT - Evening Event

[Epic Poetics: Onstage Reading and Conversation](#) with Alice Notley and Dan Beachy-Quick

Introductory remarks made by Colorado Poet Laureate Andrea Gibson

Included in Pass, or A La Carte: \$20 for members, \$30 for non-members, \$5 for students

Join us for an evening event with Colorado poet Dan Beachy-Quick and the legendary poet Alice Notley, whom Poetry Foundation called one of “America’s greatest living poets.” Notley will perform her latest work, after which she’ll be joined by Dan Beachy-Quick (author of more than 15 books of poetry and prose) in conversation about modern epic poems, the porous line between life and death in art, the revolutionary spirit of poetry, and more.

Sunday, November 5

11:45 AM to 12:15 PM MDT

Lunch reading with beloved Colorado poets Crisosto Apache, Hakeem Furious, and Radha Marcum. Bring a sack lunch, or pick something up from the onsite food truck, [Farm to Truck Colorado](#), which will be on site until 2:00PM.

12:30 to 1:30 PM MDT

Panel: Poetry Publishing 101 featuring Carmen Giménez (Graywolf), Claretta Holsey (Copper Canyon), Brice Maiurro (self-published), and Radha Marcum

A primer for poets who want to make the transition from writing poems to publishing books of them. This panel will provide stories of success, practical tools, tips, and strategies. Also, we’ll look at the pros and cons of traditional vs. hybrid vs. independent (self) publishing. Please note some of our panelists will be virtual.

1:45 to 2:45 PM MDT

Choose one of our craft talks below!

Writing the Interior

with Victoria Adukwei Bulley



If the self were a house, the interior would be the things it holds: the photographs, the books, and the plants we grow within it. In this workshop we'll explore how to write poems that speak with the intimate, idiosyncratic voice of our innermost beings, with all of its poetic strangeness and freedom. Participants will be guided to generate new writing and receive feedback within the session.

Freewriting with Trees

with John Freeman

There are over three trillion trees on Earth, which means for every one of us, there are 400 of them. Yet do we see them? Can we conceive they may not be...individuals? What would a literature informed by tree time and the over story look like? This workshop aims to ask these questions and takes on exercises that shake us out of the shade of our built environment.

Poetry as a Way of Seeing

with Joy Roulier Sawyer

Poetry is not just something we do; it's a way of being, of seeing. Tap into your inner poet in this fun and informative workshop, designed for both savvy poets and shy beginners. You'll participate in writing exercises designed to enlighten and encourage, as well as receive tips and prompts for the writing journey ahead.

3:00 to 4:00 PM MDT

Panel: *Conclusions—A Poet, a Short Story Writer, and an Editor Walk into a Bar*

How do we end things? Do they go out with a bang, or a long slow fade? Are some endings just, impossible? And what kind of endings are the right ones for our times. Poet and translator Wendy Chen, the short story writer Amanda Rea, and editor/poet John Freeman will tackle these questions and more as they send off *Freeman's* literary journal's final issue—themed to conclusions—into the afterlife.

4:00 to 4:30 PM MDT

Happy Hour in the Lighthouse Cafe, or go grab a beer, non-alcoholic beer, or hard seltzer at [Cohesion](#).

4:30 to 5:30 PM MDT - Evening Event

[Radiant Quiet: Reading and Conversation](#) with Victoria Adukwei Bulley and Linda Hogan
Included in Pass, or A La Carte: \$10 for members, \$20 for non-members, \$5 for students

Join us for the last event of Poetry Fest, featuring Colorado writer and Pulitzer Prize Finalist Linda Hogan and visiting poet, writer, and filmmaker Victoria Adukwei Bulley. Both poets will



read from their most recent works and embark on a wide-ranging conversation about words, animals, and silence.

Location

Poetry Fest will take place at Lighthouse's new headquarters in Denver, Colorado, at 3844 York Street, though folks are welcome to join the evening readings via livestream.

Pass Options

[Poetry Fest: Full Weekend Pass](#)

\$175 for members, \$195 for non-members

Includes three panels, choice of two hour-long craft and writing sessions, three readings with local poets, two happy hours and time to socialize, and tickets to both Epic Poetics with Alice Notley and Dan Beachy-Quick and Radiant Quiet with Victoria Adukwei Bulley and Linda Hogan

[Poetry Fest: Saturday Pass](#)

\$110 for members, \$120 for non-members

Includes one panel, choice of three hour-long craft and writing sessions, two readings with local poets, happy hour and time to socialize, and a ticket to Epic Poetics with Alice Notley and Dan Beachy-Quick.

[Poetry Fest: Sunday Pass](#)

\$70 for members, \$80 for non-members

Includes two panels, choice of one hour-long writing session, a reading with local poets, happy hour and time to socialize, and a ticket to Radiant Quiet with Victoria Adukwei Bulley and Linda Hogan.