



REDCAT

CalArts Writers Showcase

Talks

**MAY 9, 2024
3 PM**

**REDCAT
Roy and Edna Disney
CalArts Theater

CALARTS
California Institute of the Arts**

We gratefully acknowledge that we operate on the traditional lands of the Tongva, Tataviam, and Chumash peoples—including the Gabrieleño, Fernandeño, and Ventureño; members of the Takic and Chumashan language families; and other Indigenous peoples who made their homes in and around the area we now call Los Angeles. We honor their ancestors past, present, and future, and recognize their continued existence and contributions to our society.

CalArts Writers Showcase

The CalArts MFA Creative Writing class of 2024 is excited to partner with REDCAT to present this glimpse into their wild and varied work. This afternoon audience members will get a real feel for the incredible range of experimentation that characterizes the literary endeavors of students in the Creative Writing program. This year's showcase culminates the *Next Words Reading Series*, which featured four readings at venues across the Los Angeles Basin in celebration of the Class of '24 and their *Next Words* anthology entitled *De/Cathect*. *De/Cathect* features writing from all of this afternoon's readers and will be available for purchase in the REDCAT lobby during the reception which follows today's event.

Please note: CalArts Writers Showcase contains strobe lights and adult content, including complex matters of sexuality as well as mental health.

The program includes a post-event reception.

ABOUT THE WRITERS (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

Celine Huang (she/they) is a Taiwanese American writer, aspiring voice actor, and screenwriter from the suburbs of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She graduated from New York University with a Bachelor of Arts in Social Science with a focus in Political Science and will complete her Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing at the California Institute of the Arts in Spring 2024. Her writing focuses on the themes of growth, studying abroad, and that feeling of uncertainty when returning home. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling and visiting museums.

Lety Vargas (she/her) is a Mexican-American writer and filmmaker from Chicago, Illinois. As a writer, Lety prefers to write speculative fiction, perhaps imagining worlds and situations that are different to ours. People call her writing trippy. As a filmmaker, she currently focuses on the realism of life. People call her narrative films documentary-like. Lety is addicted to coffee prepared in different ways. She recently wrote her first collection of short stories.

Jasmine Belle Scott got addicted to angsty poetry as a teenager and has been writing ever since. She got her Bachelor's Degree from the University of La Verne and created her own Interdisciplinary major called Writing for the Performing Arts. Her classes included Creative Writing, Theater, Psychology, and Film. As a MFA CalArts student, she has embarked on writing a play for her thesis inspired by her own chaotic mental health journey. She still loves poetry, but has a recent interest in screenwriting, and TV show writing. Outside of academia, she is a fanatic plant parent (gardener), cook, and baker.

Elizabeth McKee is a writer based in Los Angeles with a background in independent film. She is the Nonfiction Editor for the literary magazine *Strip Mall*. She is currently at work on a novel about female friendship, independent filmmaking, and the nature of creative labor.

Kini Sosa is a teaching artist and poet from San Diego, CA. A recent Creative Writing MFA graduate from the California Institute of the Arts, she also holds a BA in Creative Writing from the University of California, Riverside and has previously taught at the UVA Young Writers Workshop, Inlandia's Poetry is Power Institution, and the California State Summer School for the Arts. Their practice consists of graphic text and poetry with an emphasis on liminal human forms, intimacy, trauma, queerness, the "feminine grotesque," and the visual / literary translations of images. You can find her in the *Mosaic Arts Literary Magazine*, *Experiencing Comics: An Introduction to Reading, Discussing, and Creating Comics*, *Rejoinder*, *pacificREVIEW*, and other publications.

Daisy Elizeth Magallanes (she/they) is a Chicana poet and writer born and raised in Los Angeles. Their poetry has been published in the *Acid Verse Literary Journal* and their short fiction in the *Black Warrior Review*. When they're not hanging out with their cat, Barthelme, and chihuahua, Buddy, they can be found sorting through archives.

Kyran Joughin and Little Red Ted (we/our) work in collaboration using image and text, and from the experience of activism and non-human solidarity in precarious times. We work with voices which are of bodies but not embodied, animate/inanimate, asking 'what is it to be held' and 'what shall we hold to?' KJ's writing has appeared in *Moving Image Review* and *Art Journal* (Intellect Books), the *Times Literary Supplement* and others. We live and work in London, SW France and Los Angeles, CA.

solomon joy leone (@oscarsgonew1lde) is a poet and writer based in nowhere, a place. solomon joy leone holds a BA in creative writing from Seattle University and an MFA from CalArts very dearly. focusing on themes of desire, grief, and a constant conversation with the holy other, solomon joy leoneworships at many altars. solomon joy leone is also a pop culture enthusiast, creative director for the independent newspaper the *West Seattle Bridge*, and was voted "most likely to crowd surf at their own TED talk" in high school. solomon joy leone also loves you.

Jason Peckham (he/him) is a LA based queer writer and visual artist. A current MFA candidate at the California Institute of the Arts, he also holds a BA in Visual and Media Arts from Emerson College. His work is concerned with prolonged grief, queer utopias, climate change and urban design. He is the poetry editor for *Strip Mall Magazine*.

Eil Leffler is a poet, visual artist, and writer specializing in speculative fiction and stories about illness and the body. She graduated from University of Virginia in 2022 with a BA in English. While at UVA, she performed slam poetry in Flux, and published a cartoon in the *Cavalier Daily*.

David Evan Stolworthy (he/him) is a writer and playwright who specializes in branching narrative, existentialism, and speculative fiction. As a narrative designer, theatre nerd, and avid gamer, he is fascinated with adapting video game mechanics and gameplay into immersive and interactive experiences for the stage. He is an executive producer, literary manager, and resident dramaturg with MB Stage Productions, LLC through which his work has been produced in Southern California and Off-Broadway (THE VIDEO GAMES, mbstage.com).

Rowland Smith is a Korean-American writer, actor and gamer based in Southern California. Born and raised near Baltimore Maryland, Rowland earned their BA in English Literature from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, alongside a BFA in Acting. They are currently pursuing an MFA in Creative Writing at the California Institute of the Arts. Rowland's creative work explores isolation and yearning within oneiric fiction, interactive fantasy, and surrealist screenplays. They are also known for their ecocritical theory on medieval mythology/religious pantheon. You may recognize Rowland's work from UMBC's *Bartleby* or *50 Word Stories*, among others.

Marta Brecht (she/her) is a Los Angeles based writer and lover of all things fiction. She earned her BA in Political Science at the University of California Los Angeles and recently earned an MFA in Creative Writing at the California Institute of the Arts, where she worked as a Teaching Assistant for the School of Critical Studies. When she is not reading and writing you can find her on the sidelines of a soccer field or basketball court cheering on her kids.

Erik St.Andrew Moe (he/him) is an interdisciplinary artist, fiction writer, poet, and time-traveler based in 21st-century Los Angeles. A native of Minneapolis, his career has included work on progressive electoral and labor justice campaigns. His performance, installation, and literary collaborations with friends have been hosted by Creative Time; Funk Parade; Little Salon; Green Space dance incubator; and the New Museum. He has participated in fellowships and residencies with the DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities; National Arts Strategies; Banff Centre for the Arts; and Halcyon Arts Lab. His MFA thesis is a work of speculative history and autofiction.

Alexandria Weber is a novelist, video game journalist, and dancer with a particular fascination with fairy tales, morals, and symbolic storytelling. She has a BA in Interdisciplinary Dance Studies from Cal Poly Humboldt, where she received an award for Excellence In Choreography as well as achieving magna cum laude. She is a Copy Editor for the website *Zelda Dungeon* and aspires to put her MFA towards sharing her love of storytelling with college students as a teacher.

abbi page (they/she) is a Jamaican-American interdisciplinary writer and filmmaker. their creative, critical-theoretical practice explores "the unimaginable metaphysics of black livingness" (Tiffany Lethabo King). they graduated from Brown University with a BA in Africana Studies and Literary Arts, with honors as a recipient of the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Research Fellowship. they're pursuing MFAs in Creative Writing and Film/Video at CalArts where they also work as a peer writing tutor and a teaching assistant. they're a recipient of the Truman Capote Literary Trust Fellowship, the Ethel Robinson Award for Creative Research, as well as a member of Phi Beta Kappa and The Haus of Glitter Performance Lab.



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