

AWP 2020 San Antonio

EVENT TITLE: Pre-Apocalyptic Writing

Event Description: If the post-apocalyptic visualizes consequences of our current economic, environmental, and political train wrecks, pre-apocalyptic writing grapples with the long moment before these disasters culminate. We consider healing borders, plastic ruins, imaginative technologies--string theory, speculation, autoimmunity, computational & exploratory programming--that expand rather than contract our humanity, how to reorder the constellations that spell end times, and how to hope in the hopeless moment.

EVENT CATEGORY: Multiple Literary Genres Craft

Event Organizer & Moderator:

Danielle Pafunda: Danielle Pafunda is author of nine books including *Beshrew*, *The Book of Scab*, *The Dead Girls Speak in Unison*, and *Spite* (forthcoming). She has taught at the University of California San Diego, University of Maine Orono, and is Assistant Professor of English at Rochester Institute of Technology.

Event Participants:

Rosebud Ben-Oni: Rosebud Ben-Oni received a 2014 NYFA Fellowship in Poetry and a CantoMundo Fellowship in 2013. She is the author of *Solecism*, a poetry collection, and an editorial advisor for *VIDA: Women in Literary Arts*.

Lillian-Yvonne Bertram: Lillian-Yvonne Bertram is the author of *But a Storm is Blowing From Paradise*, chosen by Claudia Rankine as winner of the 2010 Benjamin Saltman Award. Her poetry and prose has appeared in numerous journals.

Ching-In Chen: Ching-In Chen is author of *The Heart's Traffic*, *recombinant*, and *to make black paper sing*, and co-editor of *The Revolution Starts at Home: Confronting Intimate Violence within*

Activist Communities. They are part of Kundiman, Lambda, Watering Hole, Callaloo, Macondo and VONA communities.

Paisley Rekdal: Paisley Rekdal is the author, most recently, of *The Broken Country* and *Nightingale*. A Guggenheim fellow and Utah's Poet Laureate, she teaches at the University of Utah, where she edits the web archive project Mapping Salt Lake City.

Opening remarks and housekeeping announcements:

Good afternoon, and welcome to Pre-Apocalyptic Writing

Before we get started, a couple administrative notes:

First, I'll read our accessibility statement:

- For those needing or wishing to follow along to a written text, please let the moderator of the panel (identify moderator) know and a printed copy of the presentation will be delivered to you.
- Please make sure that spaces marked for wheelchairs remain clear of chairs or other barriers.
- Treat service animals as working animals and do not attempt to distract or pet them.
- Be aware of those with chemical sensitivities and refrain from wearing perfume.
- Please be aware that your fellow attendees may have invisible disabilities. Do not question anyone's use of an accommodation while at the conference, including for chairs reserved for those with disabilities.
- We realize the lines for the bathrooms may be long, but please refrain from using an accessible stall unless you require such accommodation. Please also be aware family restrooms located on level 2 are reserved for those with disabilities or those wishing to use a single-stall restroom.
- If you have any questions or concerns regarding conference accessibility, please call or text the Accessibility Hotline (503) 455-4127 or email events@awpwriter.org.

Thanks so much for being here, thanks to our panelists, and an additional thanks to Erika Meitner who helped us brainstorm this topic.

[A brief introduction goes here.]

Participant Papers:

Rosebud Ben-Oni:

[Description to come.]

Lillian-Yvonne Bertram:

I will talk about envisioning the apocalypse from a Black nihilist perspective, which might include the idea that for the African diaspora, the apocalypse might have different temporalities. What if African Americans are living in a post-apocalypse? What if we've been reporting from the apocalypse all this time? I'll talk about how my own work attempts to navigate the temporalities of apocalypse.

Ching-In Chen:

[Description to come.]

Danielle Pafunda:

[Fuller description to come.] I will discuss writing about the various potentials for apocalypse we currently contend with on a daily basis, including oceans full of plastic, climate change, super volcanoes, pandemics, global warfare, and so on.

Paisley Rekdal:

[Description to come.]

MODERATOR QUESTIONS:

Time permitting, the moderator will ask each panel participant about elements of their presentations and where these intersect with each other. We will then open the discussion to the audience.