

Title: Compounding the Line: Visual Poetics in a Word Doc World

Event Category: Poetry Craft and Criticism

Description: As we work to deconstruct colonial, patriarchal and ableist strongholds, can sidestepping conventions of modern typography to explore language through other modalities, help to free us? Can graphic, experimental, unmastered play be leveraged to penetrate linguistic silence? As readers, how should we engage interdisciplinary texts? As writers, teachers and editors how evaluate them? And when such work is ready for the world, how will it travel? Where will it live? Five multi-modal poets discuss.

In a time of isolation, insecurity and increased screen time, many writers feel blocked. Writing that de-centers mastery of language in favor of curiosity and interdisciplinary play can be invaluable to breaching dense silence. Sadly, writing workshops rarely foster other artistic literacies and mistrust of interdisciplinary work abounds. Though a surge in hybridity has been met with new publication venues, familiarity with these and other opportunities for multimodal distribution remains scant.

Participants:

Douglas Kearney is a Foundation for Contemporary Arts Cy Twombly awardee and Cave Canem fellow. He's published six books and teaches Creative Writing at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. The opera, *Sweet Land*, for which he was co-librettist, earned strong notices in national publications.

A poet and multimedia artist, **Diana Khoi Nguyen** is the author of *Ghost Of*, which won the 2019 Kate Tufts Discovery Award, and was a finalist for the National Book Award and other prizes. A Kundiman fellow, she currently teaches in the Randolph College MFA and Lighthouse Writers Workshop.

Octavio Quintanilla is an Associate Professor of Literature and Creative Writing at Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio, TX. He is the author of the poetry collection, *If I Go Missing*. Instagram: @writeroctavioquintanilla

Jennifer Sperry Steinorth's books include *A Wake with Nine Shades* and *Her Read, a graphic poem*. A teacher, interdisciplinary artist and licensed builder, her poems appear in *Beloit Poetry Journal*, *The Black Warrior Review*, *Cincinnati Review*, *Missouri Review*, *New Ohio Review*, *Rhino* and elsewhere.

i. Opening Remarks

ii. Slide/Video Introductions to Participants' Visual Work & Origins

iii. A Collaborative Experiment

a. the set-up

b. the seeds

c. the tree

d. the fruit

iv. Q&A