

Event title: “The Language in Question: New Poetry from Milkweed Editions”

Event description: Benjamin Garcia writes, "the language in question is corrupt // it's poison and salve // savage and sage // it's honeysuckle and bitter oleander." The poets in this reading, with recent books published by Milkweed Editions, all illustrate in varying ways the press's ongoing commitment to art that uses language to trouble and interrogate the status quo. Our poetries are radical, queer, disabled, genre-bending. We seek to celebrate our power as creators--come join us!

Event category: Poetry reading

Event Organizer & Moderator:

Nicky Beer is a bi/queer writer, and the author of *REAL PHONIES AND GENUINE FAKES* (Milkweed 2022), *THE OCTOPUS GAME*, and *THE DIMINISHING HOUSE*. She is an associate professor at the University of Colorado-Denver, where she co-edits the journal *Copper Nickel*.

Event participants:

Benjamin Garcia provides HIV/HCV/STD and opioid overdose prevention education to higher risk communities in New York State. He has received scholarships from the Frost Place and the Palm Beach Poetry Festival. His work is forthcoming in *Lambda Literary*, *Indiana Review*, *Boston Review*, and elsewhere.

torrin a. greathouse is a transgender cripple-punk & MFA candidate at the University of Minnesota. She has received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, *Zoeglossia*, and the University of

Arizona Poetry Center. She is the author of *Wound from the Mouth of a Wound*.

Ben Kingsley is best known for his Academy Award winning role as Mahatma Gandhi. A touch less famous, Affrilachian author Benjamín Naka-Hasebe Kingsley has not acted since his third-grade debut as the undertaker in *Music Man*.

Michael Kleber-Diggs (KLEE-burr digs) is a poet, essayist, and literary critic. His debut poetry collection, *Worldly Things*, won the Max Ritvo Poetry Prize (Milkweed Editions, 2021). His poems and essays has appeared in several journals and anthologies. Michael lives in Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Housekeeping announcements from moderator:

Welcome to “The Language in Question: New Poetry from Milkweed Editions.” A few reminders before we begin:

- For those needing or wishing to follow along to a written text, please let me (Nicky Beer) know, and a printed copy 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 scented products.
- 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.

The moderator will make some brief, opening remarks before the event participants read their poetry. The moderator will introduce each participant before they read.

Nicky Beer will read her poetry for 8-10 minutes.

Benjamin Garcia will read his poetry for 8-10 minutes.

torrin a. greathouse will read her poetry for 8-10 minutes.

Benjamín Naka-Hasebe Kingsley will read his poetry for 8-10 minutes.

Michael Kleber-Diggs will read his poetry for 8-10 minutes.

Moderator questions

- I'd like to begin the Q & A session by asking a question of all the panelists: could you each please describe a moment from your lives when your relationship with language shifted in a significant or dramatic way?

10-15 minute Q & A with audience.