

Event Outline for AWP Panel: Voyage Image Poem

TITLE

Voyage Image Poem: An Exploration of Hybrid Texts

Number: F225

Date/Time: Friday March 25, 2022, 3:20pm - 4:35pm

Location: 115C, Pennsylvania Convention Center, 100 Level

EVENT DESCRIPTION

Photographs, writing and travel have been inextricably linked since the dawn of the postcard. A photo says, “I was here” and a poem asks “where and who was I?” By bringing the two art forms together, these book-length explorations—of Antarctica, of the parallels between dust-bowl migrants and today’s California, of Japanese American incarceration, of the aftermath of a brother’s suicide, and of post-1848 violences against Mexican/Mexican Americans—show how poem and image dynamically converse.

Shifts in printing technology and new media have transformed the way writers engage via images, opening new avenues for artistic exploration—with photography at the forefront. This panel includes writers who present words and images in dynamic, non-illustrative conversation: poets who collaborate with photographers; poets who write about photographers; and poets who are photographers. We will explore the role of our work (and the work of photography) in documentation, aesthetics, and witness.

After the moderator introduces the panel topic, each poet will introduce themselves then proceed to share for approximately 5-10 minutes (using visual and audio presentation formats). Poets will then pose questions to one another for conversation before opening for audience discussion and participation.

CATEGORY

Poetry Craft and Criticism

EVENT ORGANIZER

Brynn Saito is the author of *Power Made Us Swoon* (2016) and *The Palace of Contemplating Departure* (2013), winner of the Benjamin Saltman Poetry Award from Red Hen Press and a finalist for the Northern California Book Award. Brynn is an Assistant Professor of Creative Writing at California State University, Fresno.

EVENT MODERATOR

Diana Khoi Nguyen: A poet and multimedia artist, Diana Khoi Nguyen is the author of *Ghost Of* (Omnidawn 2018) and recipient of a 2021 NEA fellowship. A Kundiman fellow, she is core faculty in the Randolph College Low-Residency MFA and an Assistant Professor at the University of Pittsburgh.

EVENT PARTICIPANTS

Elizabeth Bradfield's most recent books are *Toward Antarctica* and *Theorem*, a collaboration with Artist Antonia Contro; she is also co-editor of *Broadsided Press: Fifteen Years of Poetic and Artistic Collaboration, 2005 - 2020* (2022). Her work has been published in *The New Yorker*, *Poetry*, and her honors include the Audre Lorde Prize and a Stegner fellowship. Founder of Broadsided Press, she works as a naturalist/guide and teaches creative writing at Brandeis University.

Anthony Cody is the author of *Borderland Apocrypha* (Omnidawn, 2020), winner of the 2018 Omnidawn Open Book Prize and a 2020 National Book Award Finalist in Poetry. He is a CantoMundo fellow from Fresno, CA, who serves as a poetry editor for Noemi Press and Omnidawn Publishing.

Tess Taylor: Tess Taylor is the author of five collections of poetry, including *The Misremembered World*, *The Forage House*, and *Work & Days*. In spring 2020 she published two books of poems: *Last West*, part of Dorothea Lange: Words & Pictures, at the Museum of Modern Art, and *Rift Zone*, from Red Hen Press.

OPENING REMARKS

Moderator (Tess or Liz?) read at in-person event:

Welcome to "Voyage Image Poem: An Exploration of Hybrid Texts." A few reminders before we begin:

- 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 will be delivered to you. [PRINT 5 COPIES]
- 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.

Moderator: Read event description and bios (above). Participants go one-by-one (probably no need for intros in between if moderators just reads the bios at the start).

PARTICIPANT REMARKS

Each participant delivers opening remarks, initial thoughts, readings, etc.

(These can be in a paragraph, a bulleted list of items the speakers would like to cover during the event, or a copy of whatever he, she, or they plan to read.)

Anthony:

Brynn:

- Talk about relationship to [Densho's](#) archive of photographs and interviews in researching and writing about Japanese American incarceration
- Share "[Dear](#)" project of family portraits and letter-poems
- Talk about emerging photo collaboration with Dave Lehl

Diana:

- Will share brief overview of work with familial photographs post-*Ghost Of*
- Share work based on maternal familial photographs: "[Tug](#)" and "Family Portraits"
- Read excerpt from "Family Portraits"

Liz:

- Share brief overview of *Toward Antarctica* and its inspiration from Basho.
- Share a bit about Theorem and Broadsided
- Maybe the deaccessioning project.

Tess:

MODERATOR QUESTIONS

- What set you on this path? Why did you decide to bring images into your work?
- Do you think of yourself as a poet in this instance, or would another term be better? Why?

- What did you feel were the risks in this work?
- What other writers/artists did you look to as inspiration? Is there a lineage that you hold yourself within?
- What can a poem do that a photograph can't, and vice-versa—specifically in your own work that we're discussing today?