

## **EVENT TITLE: Truth Sayers: Poetry Collectives as a 21st Century Political Act**

**EVENT DESCRIPTION:** June Jordan said, “To tell the truth is to become beautiful, to begin to love yourself, value yourself. And that's political, in its most profound way.” The Write On Poetry Babes is a collective of womxn whose truth telling has created protest initiatives & projects that support BIPOC womxn and LGBTQ folks. The collective holds space for each other and the poetry community. This panel will discuss how our experiences can help other communities empower themselves and effect intersectional change.

**EVENT CATEGORY:** Artistic and Professional Development

### **EVENT PARTICIPANTS & SHORT BIOGRAPHIES:**

#### **MARINA CARREIRA**

Marina Carreira (she/they) is a queer Luso-American poet artist from Newark, NJ. She is the author of *Tanto Tanto* (Cavankerry Press, 2022) and *Save the Bathwater* (Get Fresh Books, 2018).

#### **YSABEL Y. GONZALEZ**

Ysabel Gonzalez is a Newark, NJ native who received her BA from Rutgers University and an MFA in Poetry from Drew University. She works as the Assistant Director for the Dodge Poetry Festival, is a CantoMundo fellow and the author of *Wild Invocations* published by Get Fresh Books.

#### **LYNNE MCENIRY**

Lynne McEniry is honored to be a member of the Write On Babes poetry collective and loves writing poems in conversation and collaboration with all forms of art. Her collection, *some other wet landscape*, is available from Get Fresh Books Publishing...born in

Yonkers, NY, Lynne lives in Morristown NJ where she also teaches at Saint Elizabeth University. Find her on Instagram @lynnepoet.

### **DR. KATHLEEN KREMINS**

Dr. Kathleen Kremins is a Newark, NJ native of Irish immigrant parents and a retired public school teacher. She is the author of *The Ethics of Reading: The Broken Beauties of Toni Morrison, Arundhati Roy, and Nawal el Sadaawi*, and a chapbook of poetry, *Undressing the World*, forthcoming from Finishing Line Press in June 2022.

### **TAMARA ZBRIZHER**

Tamara Zbrizher is a Ukrainian Immigrant who received her MFA in Poetry from Drew and is a current doctoral student there. Her first book of poetry, *Tell Me Something Good* was published by Get Fresh Books. She teaches writing at Kean University.

\*\*\*

Carreira opens the session by introducing the session and the Write On Poetry Babes Collective's mission. Carreira introduces McEniry who then reads a 2-minute statement on what the collective means to her. McEniry introduces Kremins who then reads a 2-minute statement on what the collective means to her. Kremins introduces Zbrizher who then reads a 2-minute statement on what the collective means to her. Zbrizher introduces Gonzalez who then reads a 2-minute statement on what the collective means to her. Gonzalez introduces Carreira who then reads a 2-minute statement on what the collective means to her.

Moderated by Gonzalez, the collective then goes into a discussion exploring the following questions (in this sequence):

- Why was the Write on Poetry Babes Collective created? What was the need? About 7 minutes of discussion.

- What does truth telling mean for each of you? About 10 minutes of discussion.
- How can collectives hold space for each other and the poetry community? About 7 minutes of discussion.
- What are we learning and what are the challenges with having a collective? About 5 minutes of discussion.
- What does it mean to us to hold space for women in an all-women's collective? Why do we emphasize that? About 7 minutes of discussion.

To close, each poet will read an original poem.

“Covid dreaming” read by McEniry

“Reclamation” read by Kremins

“A sonnet in which I am in the bathtub on a Friday night examining my legs and thinking I should've taken them out on the town” read by Zbrizher

“Chameleon or I Am Afraid” read by Gonzalez

“Tapestry or Now I Love Green” read by Carreira

Please see the additional attachment for text of original poems read at the close of this session.