

## **Event Title: (In)forming Varieties: Poets on Unique Uses of Form in Composition & Performance**

Poetry Craft & Criticism/Reading

**Event Description:** How do varieties of form inform poets' performances? What are the sonic connections between visual poems and villanelles? How can collage collect a community's attention? Join us for an innovative reading exploring idiosyncratic approaches to form and its relationship to both composition and performance. We'll engage the drafting process as well as final drafts. And, as each poet is also an accomplished teacher, we'll discuss how diverse formal innovations enliven the community of the classroom.

**Event Organizer:** David Welch

**Event Moderator:** David Welch

**Initial Thoughts:** We put this conversation together to speak with readers, students & teachers concerned with poetry's formal progress & how form reflects community. All participating poets will draw on their dynamic work & teaching experiences in various classroom settings across the country to inform their contributions to our discussion.

Our agenda for the afternoon is as follows: After these initial remarks, each poet will give a brief overview of their formal interests—including visual poems and collage as well as erasure, computer programming, & received forms such as the villanelle—before reading before reading their work. A moderated conversation will follow, examining how form engages composition, performance, community, & the classroom. We'll conclude with a Q&A.

David Welch received his MFA from the University of Alabama and teaches at DePaul University, where he is Assistant Director of the DePaul Publishing Institute. He's the author of the collection *Everyone Who Is Dead*, & his poems appear in journals including *AGNI*, *Boston Review*, & *Colorado Review*.

Jaswinder Bolina is author of the poetry collections *The 44th of July*, *Phantom Camera*, *Carrier Wave*, and the digital chapbook *The Tallest Building in America*. He teaches on the faculty of the MFA Program in Creative Writing at the University of Miami.

Avni Vyas, along with Anne Barngrover, is the author of the chapbook, *Candy In Our Brains* (CutBank, 2014). Her poetry appears in *Juked*, *Meridian*, *Grist*, *Crab Orchard Review*, and others. She teaches at New College of Florida in Sarasota.

Keith S. Wilson is an Affrilachian Poet, Cave Canem fellow, graduate of the Callaloo Creative Writing Workshop, and recipient of three Bread Loaf scholarships. He holds an MFA in poetry from Chicago State University. Keith works as a writer and game designer in Chicago.

**Questions & Further Remarks Forthcoming**