

## **Celebrating the Chicago Quarterly Review Anthology of Black American Literature**

Join the Chicago Quarterly Review for a celebration of its Anthology of Black American Literature, guest edited by National Book Award winner and MacArthur Fellow Charles Johnson. This reading showcases the breadth of voices that have been brought together in this remarkable issue, as well as the Chicago Quarterly Review's commitment to special editions, the fifth in its history. Interspersed with questions and commentary, five contributors of prose and poetry read from their included work.

Guest editor Charles Johnson writes in his introduction, "What kinds of worlds do black creators sing in the twenty-first century? Moving as a phenomenologist would through the contributions in this special edition of CQR, I see not a single, monolithic black experience of our world, but a rich, thought-provoking, and very human diversity of profiles on our lived experience that defies oversimplification and sociological clichés."

This event will be moderated by contributor Cyrus Cassells. Cassells will begin by welcoming attendees and describing how this special issue of the Chicago Quarterly Review came together. Each of the five panelists, including the moderator, will take turns introducing themselves and reading from their own work for ten minutes each. The reading will end with a fifteen-minute audience Q&A.

Our panelists include: Cyrus Cassells, E. Ethelbert Miller, Mona Lisa Saloy, Steven Barnes, and E. Hughes.

**Cyrus Cassells** is the current Poet Laureate of Texas. His eighth book is *The World That the Shooter Left Us* (Four Way Books: Feb. 2022). Among his several honors: a Guggenheim fellowship, a Lannan Literary Award, a Lambda Literary Award, two NEA grants, and an NAACP Image Award finalist nomination.

<https://fourwaybooks.com/site/the-world-that-the-shooter-left-us/?fbclid=IwAR2tp79JR4Khoy-AhIkG7wPWxxk9ywKeLw7pmrB7WA7Nwtr0mxgU91VuWhE>

[https://www.poetryfoundation.org/harriet-books/reviews/157363/the-world-that-the-shooter-left-us?fbclid=IwAR0Znwy2Zh\\_cjEUSoB2Ag0JPbBahFmki6Zt4vOhcZQ3KRORJepBopEBJq4g](https://www.poetryfoundation.org/harriet-books/reviews/157363/the-world-that-the-shooter-left-us?fbclid=IwAR0Znwy2Zh_cjEUSoB2Ag0JPbBahFmki6Zt4vOhcZQ3KRORJepBopEBJq4g)

**E. Ethelbert Miller** is a writer and literary activist. He was inducted into the Washington, D.C. Hall of Fame in 2015. In 2016 he received the AWP George Garrett Award For Outstanding Community Service in Literature. *When Your Wife has Tommy John Surgery* is his most recent book.

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/e-ethelbert-miller>

**Dr. Mona Lisa Saloy**, Folklorist, Professor of English, Dillard University is author of *Second Line Home*, *New Orleans Poems*, and *Red Beans & Ricely Yours*. Other work appears in *The Southern Poetry Anthology*, *Louisiana Folklore Miscellany*, *Children's Folklore Review*, *Forward to Night Sessions*.

<http://www.monalisasaloy.com>

**Steven Barnes** is the NY Times Bestselling author of over thirty novels of science fiction, suspense, and adventure. In addition he writes for television shows such as Outer Limits, Twilight Zone, and Andromeda. He lives in Southern California with his wife and writing partner Tananarive Due.

<https://stevenbarneslife.com>

**E. Hughes** is a PhD student in the Program for Writers at the University Illinois at Chicago. She received her MFA+MA from the Litowitz Creative Writing Program at Northwestern University.

<https://ehughespoetry.com/about/>