

EVENT TITLE: Beyond Motherhood: Ritual, Myth, and Self-Fashioning in Poetry

Event description:

This panel combines readings by four lively poets with a discussion centered around the following questions: how do suppressed or redirected desires for motherhood (or non-maternity) reside in our poems? How do our identities as cis-gender or nonbinary, Black or white, immigrant or native-born, make their way into poems that critique, reject, or resurrect the maternal? How do our forms give voice to the silenced or forbidden? Our collaborative conversation will include audience participation.

EVENT CATEGORY: Poetry reading

Event Organizer & Moderator

Karen Kovacik is the author of the collections *Metropolis Burning* and *Beyond the Velvet Curtain* and a translator of contemporary Polish poetry, most recently Jacek Dehnel's *Aperture*, a finalist for the 2019 PEN Award for Poetry in Translation. She's the editor of *Scattering the Dark*, an anthology of Polish women poets. She teaches at Indiana Univ. / Purdue Univ. Indianapolis.

Event Participants

Ewa Chrusciel is a bilingual poet and translator. She's the author of three poetry collections in English, most recently *Of Annunciations*, and three in Polish. She teaches at Colby-Sawyer College.

Maudelle Driskell holds an MFA in poetry from Warren Wilson College. Her work has been published in many literary reviews and anthologies. She is the recipient of the Ruth Lilly Fellowship, awarded by *Poetry* and the Modern Language Association. She is the executive director of The Frost Place, an arts organization headquartered in Robert Frost's historic home.

Vievee Francis is the author of *Blue-Tail Fly*, *Horse in the Dark*, and *Forest Primeval*, winner of the Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award and the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award for Poetry. She is an associate professor at Dartmouth College and an associate editor for *Callaloo*.

Event agenda

The moderator will introduce the four poets and welcome the audience. Each poet will read for seven to ten minutes, then the moderator will open the discussion with a list of questions prepared in advance for 20 minutes. The remainder of the session will feature an audience Q&A.