

EVENT TITLE: Autumn House Press 25th Anniversary Celebration Reading

EVENT DESCRIPTION: Over the past 25 years, Autumn House Press has been dedicated to publishing and promoting the best works of literature from emerging and established authors whose writing breaks boundaries and expands the modern literary landscape. For the press's anniversary reading, five Autumn House authors, including two poets, two fiction writers, and an essayist, will read selections from their books to illustrate the press's achievements and comment briefly on what Autumn House means to them.

EVENT CATEGORY: Multiple Literary Genre Reading

Event Organizer & Moderator

Michael X. Wang: Michael X. Wang was born in Fenyang, China and immigrated to the US when he was six. His first book, *Further News of Defeat*, won the Autumn House Press Fiction Prize, GLCA New Writer Award, and the PEN/Robert W. Bingham Prize for Debut Short Story Collection. His second book, *Lost in the Long March*, came out November 2022.

Event Participants

Beth Alvarado: Beth Alvarado's AHP title, *Anxious Attachments*, was longlisted for the PEN/Diamonstein-Spielvogel Award for the Art of the Essay and won the 2020 Oregon Book Award for Creative Nonfiction. Her other books include *Anthropologies: A Family Memoir* and the story collections *Jillian in the Borderlands* and *Not a Matter of Love*.

Cameron Barnett: Cameron Barnett is a poet and teacher in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He is the author of *The Drowning Boy's Guide to Water*, winner of the Autumn House Press 2017 Rising Writer Prize, and finalist for the 49th NAACP Image Awards for Outstanding Literary Work in Poetry. His second collection of poems, *Murmur*, is forthcoming from Autumn House Press in 2024

Sam Ligon: Samuel Ligon's most recent novel—*Miller Cane: A True & Exact History*—was serialized for a year in Spokane's weekly newspaper, *The Inlander*. The author of four previous books of fiction, including *Drift and Swerve*, Ligon is also co-editor, with Kate Lebo, of *Pie & Whiskey: Writers Under the Influence of Butter & Booze*

Ruth L. Schwartz: Ruth L. Schwartz is the author of five books, including the National Poetry Series winner *Edgewater* and *Dear Good Naked Morning* and *Miraculum*, both published by Autumn House Press. She has taught at eight colleges and universities and is the founder and director of the Conscious Girlfriend Academy, the #1 global resource for dating, love and sex education for lesbians and queer women worldwide.

Opening Remarks and Housekeeping Announcements

Good afternoon, and welcome to Autumn House Press's 25th Anniversary Celebration Reading with Beth Alvarado, Cameron Barnett, Sam Ligon, Ruth L. Schwartz, and myself, Michael X. Wang. 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, me, Michael Wang, know, and a printed copy will be delivered to you.
- 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 applying scented products during this reading.
- 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.
- Please silence all cell phones.

This year, I have the honor and privilege to moderate Autumn House Press's 25th Anniversary Reading. It's not particularly remarkable to me that Autumn House has been around for a quarter of a century. With dedicated editors like Christine Stroud and Mike Good, whose passion is not just publishing one book but caring for the career and trajectory of the author themselves, it's no wonder the Press has discovered poets like Ada Limon and Charles Kell, nonfiction writers such as Clifford Thompson, novelists like Andrew Bourelle, or the members of this esteemed panel, myself included. With such a passion for the arts and the writers that create them, it wouldn't surprise me if the press flourished for a quarter century more. Please join me in welcoming our readers.

Reading Outline

Moderator will introduce and read bios of all readers and then read a selection from his Autumn House collection, *Further News of Defeat*.

Cameron Barnett will read selections of poetry from his debut collection, *The Drowning Boy's Guide to Water*, and his forthcoming collection, *Murmur*.

Beth Alvarado will read from her essay "Water in the Desert" from her book *Anxious Attachments*.

Ruth L. Schwartz will read selections of poetry from *Dear Good Naked Morning* and *Miraculum*.

Sam Ligon will read the short story "Animal Hater," from *Drift and Swerve*.

If there is time remaining after the reading, the moderator will accept questions from the audience.