

EVENT OUTLINE  
**The Other World in This: An *Image* Journal Reading**

Poets, novelists, and essayists from *Image* journal upend our assumptions about religion. Rather than escaping the world or evading humanity, writing that grapples with spiritual struggle is deeply attuned to the hopes and heartbreak of this world. Precisely because it doesn't shy away from enduring themes of religious devotion, such writing probes the depths of human complexity and the visceral experience of being embodied. We will highlight such work across multiple genres.

The moderator will begin the event by introducing the panelists with brief biographies. The four panelists and moderator will each read from recent work for 10-12 minutes. The remaining time will be devoted to audience Q&A.

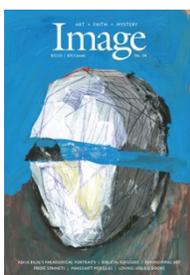
**Moderator:** Poet Scott Cairns directs Seattle Pacific University's low-res MFA—an ecumenical, affirming program despite what you've heard about SPU. He has received the Denise Levertov Award and a Guggenheim Fellowship. His books include *Slow Pilgrim*, followed by *Anaphora*. His spiritual memoir is *Short Trip to the Edge*.

**Readers:** Joyelle McSweeney is the author of ten books, including the critical book *The Necropastoral: Poetry, Media, Occults* and the poetry volume *Toxicon and Arachne*, winner of the Shelley Memorial Prize from the Poetry Society of America. She edits Action Books and teaches at Notre Dame.

Sarah Stone is the author or co-author of three books, including *Hungry Ghost Theater: A Novel*, a finalist for the 38th Annual Northern California Book Awards, and *Deepening Fiction* (with Ron Nyren). She teaches online for Stanford Continuing Studies and was a 2020 LABA East Bay Fellow.

Fady Joudah's fifth collection of poetry, *Tethered to Stars*, is from Milkweed Editions. He is a recipient of the Griffin International Poetry prize and the Yale Series for Younger poets among other awards. He is a practicing physician in Houston, TX.

Shane McCrae's most recent book is *Sometimes I Never Suffered*, shortlisted for the TS Eliot Prize. He has received a Lannan Literary Award, a Whiting Writer's Award, an Anisfield-Wolf Book Award, a Guggenheim fellowship, an NEA fellowship, and an NYFA fellowship. He teaches at Columbia University.



*Image* is a Seattle-based literary quarterly with over thirty years of history publishing award-winning fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction. *Image* is a venue for writing that grapples with the mystery of being human with a particular attention to spiritual struggle. This session features writers from Jewish, Muslim, and Christian traditions whose writing addresses the complexity of faith and religious questions, exhibiting a shared sense of human solidarity across difference.