event title: Trans(cend): Trans Poetics in the Age of Anti-Transness

event description: The world doesn’t know what to do with us. Publishers, politicians, etc — everyone is wondering what transness is, why it exists, & projecting fears onto trans people in the process. So what is the role of a trans writer, & how can we be free today? On this panel, trans writers discuss gender/genre, theme, tokenization, & how audiences do/don’t engage with trans writing. Through performance & conversation, this panel explores the state of trans lit to get to a future where trans people live.

event category: Poetry Craft & Criticism

event organizer & moderator
KB Brookins is a Black queer and trans writer, cultural worker, and installation artist from Texas. They are the author of How To Identify Yourself with a Wound (Kallisto Gaia Press 2022), Freedom House (Deep Vellum 2023), and Pretty (Alfred A. Knopf 2024). Follow them online at @earhtokb.

event participants and short biographies
K. Iver is a nonbinary trans poet born in Mississippi. Their book Short Film Starring My Beloved’s Red Bronco won the 2022 Ballard Spahr Prize from Milkweed Editions. Their work is in Boston Review, Kenyon Review, TriQuarterly, and elsewhere. They have a PhD in Poetry from Florida State University.

Kay E. Bancroft (they/them) is a queer non-binary writer, poet, educator, and artist based in Cincinnati, OH. They hold an MFA in Poetry from Randolph College, and a BA from the University of Cincinnati. You can find their writing in Hooligan Magazine, Longleaf Review, The Rumpus, and more.

SG Huerta is a queer, trans, Xicanx writer from Dallas. They are the poetry editor of Abode Press and author of the chapbooks The Things We Bring with Us (Headmistress Press 2021) and Last Stop (Defunkt Magazine 2023). Their work has appeared in The Offing, Split Lip Magazine, and more.

Evelyn Berry is a trans, Southern writer, editor, and educator. She's the author of Grief Slut (Sundress Publications, 2024) and Buggery (Bateau Press, 2020), winner of the BOOM Chapbook Prize.

Introduction
Welcome to Trans(cend): Trans Poetics in the Age of Anti-Transness. 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, (identify moderator), 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 wearing scented products.
- 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.

A couple of disclaimers for this event in particular:

- This is a brave space, not a safe space, meaning that we cannot guarantee that the topics that this panel will cover will not cause discomfort in some audience members, but I can guarantee as the moderator that I will address that discomfort head-on if & when it happens & I know about it.
- This is an all-trans panel and all of us have firsthand experience of the things we will discuss. This is NOT the time nor place to ask me or any of our moderators any personal questions as it relates to their transition nor is it the place to debate their humanity as trans people. If I hear or see any behavior in this vein, I will as the moderator ask you to leave.
- There are free masks available for anyone who would like to practice COVID cautious behavior. Feel free to come up and grab one at any point.

KB will introduce and identify all speakers in the order in which they are sitting.

**PARTICIPANT OPENING REMARKS, INITIAL THOUGHTS, OR READINGS**

Each event participant will read 1 poem & answer the question “what is trans poetics?”

**MODERATOR QUESTIONS**

1. We recognize that this conversation is important because we are living through an execution of trans people in every “united” state. Explain how this has affected you as a trans author
2. Some might see the mere existence of trans poetry & trans poets at this time as an act of “resistance.” Do you agree with this notion? Why or why not?
3. What does “resistance” to anti-transness look like? What is the role of poetry in the age of anti-transness (or what, do you feel, is the revelatory possibility of trans poetics)?
4. What can people who are not trans do to join trans poets & people in the fight against anti-transness, and what is the first step — in your opinion — to ensuring that trans literature is more than words on a page?

Q&A SESSION
At the end of the event, there will be time for a 10–15-minute Q&A session. KB will pass the wireless microphone to the person posing the question and repeat all questions into one of the wired microphones.