EVENT TITLE: Translation as Poetics, sponsored by ALTA

EVENT DESCRIPTION: This panel focuses on the generative links between translation and the writing process—two joint crafts that each inform the other. We are particularly interested in considering how the act of translation is in and of itself an act of creative writing, and how our work as poets, playwrights and interdisciplinary artists is expanded and enhanced by our practices in translation.

EVENT CATEGORY: Poetry & Translation Craft

EVENT ORGANIZERS:
Soleil David
Soleil David is a poet and translator. An alumna of the Bread Loaf Writers’ Conferences, Community of Writers, VONA, and PEN America Emerging Voices Fellowship, she has received awards from the Barbara Deming Fund, Peter K. Jansen Memorial Travel Fellowship, and the Don Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards.

janan alexandra
janan alexandra is an Arab American writer who was born in Nicosia, Cyprus. She received her MFA in Poetry from Indiana University and has spent the last decade working as a literary activist and educator. You can find her work in Gulf Coast, Ploughshares, The Rumpus, Mizna, and elsewhere.

EVENT MODERATOR:
Samandar Ghaus
S. J. Ghaus is a Pakistani American writer and artist. Their work is published or forthcoming on poets.org, Poetry Daily, in Hayden's Ferry, Ecotone, and elsewhere. A Tin House resident and VONA alum, they hold an MFA from Indiana University where they were Poetry Editor of the Indiana Review.

EVENT PARTICIPANTS:
janan alexandra
janan alexandra is an Arab American writer who was born in Nicosia, Cyprus. She received her MFA in Poetry from Indiana University and has spent the last decade
working as a literary activist and educator. You can find her work in *Gulf Coast*, *Ploughshares*, *The Rumpus*, *Mizna*, and elsewhere.

Amanda L. Andrei
Amanda L. Andrei is a playwright, literary translator, and theater critic residing in LA by way of Virginia/DC. She writes epic, irreverent plays that center concealed, wounded places of history from the perspectives of diasporic Filipina women, and she co-translates from Romanian to English.

Soleil David
Soleil David is a poet and translator. An alumna of the Bread Loaf Writers’ Conferences, Community of Writers, VONA, and PEN America Emerging Voices Fellowship, she has received awards from the Barbara Deming Fund, Peter K. Jansen Memorial Travel Fellowship, and the Don Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards.

Vivian (Xiao Wen) Li
Vivian (Xiao Wen) Li is a queer and neurodivergent first-generation immigrant Chinese-Canadian writer, editor, musician, director, emerging filmmaker, playwright, and interdisciplinary artist. She is the author of *Someday I Promise, I’ll Love You* (845 Press, 2022). Her fiction and/or poetry can be found in *The New Quarterly*, *The Massachusetts Review*, *League of Canadian Poets Anthology: In the Storm/Struggle*, *The Fiddlehead*, *filling station*, *CV2*, and *Vallum*, among others.

OPENING MODERATOR REMARKS AND HOUSEKEEPING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to Translation as Poetics. We wish to thank ALTA for sponsoring this event.

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, Samandar Ghaus, 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.

To get us started, if you could each introduce yourselves and give a brief overview of how translation feeds the other types of art that you do.

PARTICIPANT OPENING REMARKS, INITIAL THOUGHTS, OR READINGS

Each participant introduces themself, and talks about how translation feeds their poetry, writing, and art.

Each participant might touch on/discuss the following topics:
● translation as an act of revision → Rachel Zucker’s “Poetry as Translation and Radical Revision”
● translation as a craft/skill set that informs our poetry; enhances/changes the way we look at language
● “language consultants” → those whom heritage language speakers consult to understand or find language in their mother tongue
● E.J. Koh’s The Magical Language of Others

MODERATOR QUESTIONS

Moderator will ask a few questions of the participants and organizers, and will share their experiences, as well.

An example question could be:
1. Heritage language speakers are hesitant to start translating. Why do you think that is, and what can we do to encourage them to start?

AUDIENCE Q&A