Event Title: Shame, Fear, and Rage in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction

Event Description: Much as Walter Benjamin defines the politicization of aesthetics (in which art becomes a tool for perpetuating institutional power), so too has emotion become politicized and commodified. We are accepted and praised when we function efficiently, and when we conform to known categories. But our less palatable emotional tenors are essential to understanding the complexities of human experience. What new political frameworks and social possibilities might arise if we embrace emotional outbursts?

Event Organizer & Moderator:

Rhoni Blankenhorn: Rhoni Blankenhorn is a Filipina American writer. Her work can be found or is forthcoming in Narrative, Beloit Poetry Journal, RHINO, Hyperallergic, Air/Light Magazine, Pigeon Pages, and elsewhere. A Tin House Summer Workshop alum, Rhoni was a Tennessee Williams Scholar at Sewanee Writers Conference 2023.

Event Participants:

Lynn Xu: Born in Shanghai, Lynn Xu is the author of Debts & Lessons and And Those Ashen Heaps That Cantilevered Vase of Moonlight, and the co-translator (with Joshua Edwards) of Pee Poems by Lao Yang. She has performed multidisciplinary works at 300 South Kelly Street, the Guggenheim Museum, the Renaissance Society, and Rising Tide Projects. She teaches at Columbia University and coedits Canarium Books.

Emily Simon: Emily Simon is a writer and teacher living in New York City. Her first book, In Many Ways (published by Winter Editions), is a lyrical and timely experiment in prose fragments, a log of pandemic life, and a meditation on selfhood, memory, and language. A graduate of the Columbia University Writing Program, her poetry chapbook Reign is Over was published by Choo Choo Press, and her work has appeared or is forthcoming in Brazenhead Review, The Florida Review, Salt Hill, and elsewhere.

Cindy Juyoung Ok: Cindy Juyoung Ok's debut collection Ward Toward won the 2023 Yale Younger Poets Prize. A Kenyon Review Fellow, poetry editor at Guernica, and host of the Poetry Magazine Podcast, she teaches creative writing at Kenyon College.

Asa Drake: Asa Drake is a Filipina American poet and writer in Central Florida. She has received fellowships and awards from the 92Y Discovery Poetry Contest, Tin House, and Idyllwild Arts. Her chapbook, One Way to Listen (2023), was selected by Taneum Bambrick as the winner of Gold Line Press’s 2021 Poetry Chapbook Contest.