

## GUEST ARTISTS

### KRISTEN ARNETT



Kristen Arnett is the queer author of *With Teeth* (Riverhead Books, 2021) which was a finalist for the Lambda Literary Award in fiction and the New York Times bestselling debut novel *Mostly Dead Things* (Tin House, 2019) which was also a finalist for the Lambda Literary Award in fiction and was shortlisted for the VCU Cabell First Novelist Award. She was awarded a Shearing Fellowship at Black Mountain Institute, has held residencies at Ragdale Foundation, Vermont Studio Center, the Millay Colony, and the Key West Literary Seminar, and was longlisted for the Joyce Carol Oates Prize. Her work has appeared at *The New York Times*, *TIME*, *Oprah Magazine*, *Guernica*, *PBS Newshour*, *The Guardian*, and elsewhere. Her next novel, *CLOWN*, will be published by Riverhead Books, followed by the publication of an untitled collection of short stories. She has a Masters in Library and Information Science and lives in Orlando, Florida.

#### ENCOUNTERS LIST:

[Author site](#)

Text work, [The Year in Taxidermy](#)

Text work, [Pirates](#)

Text work, [Birds Surrendered and Rehomed](#)

Book, [Mostly Dead Things](#)

Book, [With Teeth](#)

## DERRICK AUSTIN



Derrick Austin is the author of *Tenderness* (BOA Editions, 2021), winner of the 2020 Isabella Gardner Poetry Award, and *Trouble the Water* (BOA Editions, 2016). His first chapbook, *Black Sand*, was published by Foundlings Press in 2022. His debut collection was honored as a finalist for the Kate Tufts Discovery Award, Thom Gunn Award for Gay Poetry, Lambda Literary Award for Gay Poetry, and the Norma Faber First Book Award. *Tenderness* was a finalist for a Golden Poppy Award, Lambda Literary Award for Gay Poetry, and a Northern California Book Award. His honors include fellowships from Cave Canem, the Wisconsin Institute of Creative Writing, and Stanford University. Most recently, he served as a 2022-2023 Amy Lowell Poetry Traveling Scholar.

### ENCOUNTERS LIST:

[Author Site](#)

Book: [Tenderness](#)

Book: [Tenderness](#)

Book: [Black Sand](#)

## LYDIA CONKLIN



Lydia Conklin has received a Stegner Fellowship, four Pushcart Prizes, a Rona Jaffe Foundation Writer's Award, a Creative Writing Fulbright in Poland, a grant from the Elizabeth George Foundation, work-study and tuition scholarships from Bread Loaf, and fellowships from MacDowell, Yaddo, Emory University, Hedgebrook, Djerassi, the James Merrill House, Lighthouse Works, and elsewhere. Their fiction has appeared in *The Paris Review*, *One Story*, *McSweeney's*, *American Short Fiction*, and *VQR*. They have drawn cartoons for *The New Yorker* and *Narrative Magazine*, and graphic fiction for *The Believer*, *Lenny Letter*, and the Steppenwolf Theater in Chicago. They've served as the Helen Zell Visiting Professor at the University of Michigan and are currently an Assistant Professor of Fiction at Vanderbilt University. Their story collection, *Rainbow Rainbow*, was longlisted for the PEN/Robert W. Bingham Award and The Story Prize. Their novel, *Songs of No Provenance*, is forthcoming in 2025 from Catapult in the US and Chatto in the UK.

### ENCOUNTERS LIST:

[Author Site](#)

Book, [Rainbow Rainbow](#)

Comics, [Lesbian Cattle Dogs](#)

Comics, [Animals in a Bad Situation](#)

## CORE FACULTY

**TERRI WITEK**



Terri Witek's 8 books of poetry include her newest collection, *Something's Missing in This Museum* (2023) ; a new chapbook, *Down Water Street* is forthcoming in 2024 from aboveground press. Her work has been included in many anthologies, including 2 from 2021: *JUDITH: Women Making Visual Poetry* (Timglaset) and *WAAVe (Women Asemic Artist and Visual Poets)* Witek's art/text mixes are often featured in collaboration: she teaches Poetry in the Expanded Field in Stetson University's low-residency MFA of the Americas with Brazilian visual artist Cyriaco Lopes; they also lead The Fernando Pessoa Game at the Disquiet International Literary Program each summer in Lisbon. Their collaborative work has been represented at ARCO in Madrid and in Seoul, Chania (Crete), Miami, New York, Philadelphia, Lisbon, and Valencia, Spain. [terriwitek.com](http://terriwitek.com)

#### ENCOUNTERS LIST:

[Author Site](#)

Book, [The Rattle Egg](#)

Book, [The Rape Kit \(Slope Editions Prize\)](#)

Book, [Something's Missing in This Museum](#)

Anthology, [JUDITH: Women Making Visual Poetry \(Timglaset\)](#)

Anthology, [WAAVe \(Women Asemic Artist and Visual Poets\)](#)

Publication, [BEYOND THE ILLEGIBLE ON BOUNDARY AVE](#)

Exhibit, [The Severe Ones and Gods of Remainder \(The Liminal Gallery, ARCO 2023 - Madrid\)](#) Special jury mention: [El aire comienza a tomar las formas lentas del mármol](#)

## CYRIACO LOPES



Brazilian-American artist Cyriaco Lopes has exhibited at the Museum of Modern Art in Rio de Janeiro, the Museum of Art of São Paulo (MASP), El Museo del Barrio in NYC, the Centre Wallonie Bruxelles in Paris, Casa Degli Artisti in Milan, among other international venues. In 2022 he had a solo exhibition at Satchel Projects in Chelsea, NYC. His work has been selected and curated in exhibitions by critics such as Yasufumi Nakamori, Paulo Herkenhoff and Adriano Pedrosa, as well as by artists such as Lygia Pape, Janine Antoni, Luciano Fabro, and Ryan Trecartin. He is the winner of the NYC World Studio Foundation Award, the Contemporary Art Museum Saint Louis Project Award, and the São Paulo Phillips Prize of trip to Europe.

His performances with poet Terri Witek have been seen at the Centro Nacional de Cultura in Lisbon, Portugal, the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia, the Salford Museum, in Manchester, England, the Atlantic Center for the Arts, FL, the Centre del Carme Cultura Contemporanea, in Valencia, Spain, and Oi Futuro Center for Art & Technology, in Rio, Brazil. Their collaboration was featured at the 2023 ARCO Madrid, where their gallery, The Liminal, won one of the two special mentions by the jury.

The artist holds two M.F.A.s: one in Imaging and Digital Arts, UMBC, Baltimore, and the other in Visual Languages, UFRJ, Rio de Janeiro. He attended artist's residencies such as Skowhegan, the London Project, MassMoca, and the MacDowell Colony (where Lopes was a 2019 Marian O. Naumburg Photography fellow).

ENCOUNTERS LIST:

[Author Site](#)

## STEPHANIE SAUER



Stephanie Sauer is a writer, interdisciplinary artist, and publisher. Her most recent book, *Almonds are Members of the Peach Family*, won the Noemi Press Book Prize in Prose and was named a best book of the year by *Entropy* and *Big Other*. Her debut, *The Accidental Archives of the Royal Chicano Air Force*, the first artist book of its kind to be published by the University of Texas Press, is featured in City Lights Bookstore's "Pedagogies of Resistance Recommended Reading List." Her essays and poems have appeared in *Drunken Boat*, *Pleiades*, *Asymptote*, *Gulf Coast*, *Entropy*, *Another Chicago Magazine*, *PRISM International*, *Verse Daily*, *Lavender Review*, *Grain Magazine*, and *The Los Angeles Review*. Sauer has earned fellowships from Yaddo, the Kimmel Harding Nelson Center for the Arts, Mirante Xique-Xique, and Woodstock Byrdcliffe Guild, as well as the *So To Speak* Hybrid Book Award, the Barbara Deming Award for Nonfiction, two Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission grants, and The School of the Art Institute of Chicago's Fellowship in Writing. Her book art has been exhibited at the De Young Museum, the Center for Book Arts, and the National Library of Baghdad. She earned her MFA from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and is the founding editor of [Copilot Press](#) and co-founding editor of [A Bolha Editora](#). She teaches writing at Stetson University's MFA of the Americas.

### ENCOUNTERS LIST:

#### Author Site

Essay, ["Writing with My Hands"](#) *So to Speak*

Book, [Almonds are Member of the Peach Family](#)

Book, [The Accidental Archives of the Royal Chicano Air Force](#).

[A Bolha Press](#) and [Praça](#)



## URAYOÁN NOEL



Urayoán Noel is a Puerto Rican poet, scholar, translator, creative-nonfiction writer, and performer, and a 2022-2023 Letras Boricuas poetry fellow. His most recent books are the poetry collection *Transversal* (University of Arizona Press, 2021), which was named a Book of the Year by the New York Public Library and longlisted for the PEN Open Award, and, as translator, *adjacent islands/islas adyacentes* (Ugly Duckling Presse/DoubleCross Press/La Impresora, 2022), which collects two “camping books” by Puerto Rican poet and book artist Nicole Cecilia Delgado. A finalist for the National Translation Award, Noel has received the LASA Latino Studies Book Prize and an MLA Honorable Mention for his critical study *In Visible Movement: Nuyorican Poetry from the Sixties to Slam* (University of Iowa Press, 2014). His work has appeared in *Poetry* and the *New York Times*, and he has performed at Poesiefestival Berlin, Barcelona Poesia, and the Toronto Biennial of Art.

### ENCOUNTERS LIST:

[Author Site](#)

Book, [Transversal](#)

Book, [Buzzing Hemisphere / Rumor Hemisférico](#)

Book, [Los Días Porosos](#)

Criticism, [In Visible Movement](#)

Triptych 1<sup>st</sup> translation, [Tróptico](#); 2<sup>nd</sup> translation, [Tróptico](#)

## STEVEN DUNN



Steven Dunn, a.k.a Pot Hole (cuz he's deep in these streets) is the recipient of a 2021 Whiting Award, and the author of three novels: *Potted Meat* (2016), *water & power* (2018), and *Tannery Bay* (2024), which is co-written with Katie Jean Shinkle. *Potted Meat* was a finalist for the Colorado Book Award, and shortlisted for *Granta Magazine's* Best of Young American Novelists, and adapted to a short film by Foothills Productions. *The Usual Route* has played at L.A. International Film Festival, Houston International Film Festival, and others. He was born and raised in West Virginia.

### ENCOUNTERS LIST:

[Author Site](#)

Video, [The secret to a happier life? Look for moments of softness](#)

Book, [Tannery Bay \(written with Katie Jean Shinkle\)](#)

Book, [water & power](#)

Book, [Potted Meat](#)



## STAFF



New Jersey native, **Jen Anders** is a mixed-media sculptor and a registered yoga teacher with over 600 hours of certification from Yoga Alliance. She attended Memphis College of Art where she graduated Summa Cum Laude. After working for several nonprofit arts organizations from 2003 -2007, she met a New York based arts philanthropist who introduced her to meditation and yoga, which changed her life. Jen began teaching yoga in 2010 and continues to teach to this day. After 25 years, Jen's steadfast commitment to creating connections either through art, yoga or philanthropy has been her passion and continues to be her life's work.



**Brendan Bowles** is a writer from Toronto, Ontario. His work has been published and produced for stage and radio and has won some of the largest short story awards in Canada. He was a Wallace Stegner Fellow at Stanford University and a Fiction Fellow at the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, Massachusetts. He is currently the Interim Director of Stetson University's MFA of the Americas.



**Ryan Rivas** is the author of *Nextdoor in Colonialtown* (Autofocus, 2022) and *Lizard People* (ThirtyWest, 2023). He is the Publisher of Burrow Press, and the Coordinator of MFA Publishing at Stetson University's MFA of the Americas creative writing program. A Macondo Writers Workshop fellow, his work has appeared in *The Believer*, *The Rumpus*, *Literary Hub*, *Best American Nonrequired Reading 2012*, and elsewhere.



**Shelby Smotherman** is a writer, artist, and theatrical technician working in the Tampa Bay Area. Most often, she works with paint and lighting and uses language from her technical background to fill her poetry, as well as taking heavy influence from pop culture.