Kimberly Ann Priest

Kimberly Ann Priest is the **winner of the 2024 Backwaters Prize in Poetry** from the University of Nebraska Press for her book *Wolves in Shells* as well as the author of *tether & lung* (Texas Review Press) and *Slaughter the One Bird* (Sundress Publications), finalist for the American Best Book Awards. Priest's writing and scholarly curiosity occupy a distinctive position at the intersection of documentary poetics, feminist inquiry, environmental humanities, and trauma studies while remaining fundamentally concerned with the ethical problem of how individuals construct meaning from inherited histories and received lifeworlds. Her creative scholarship is organized around a central question: *How do we negotiate and transform the narratives that shape our lives?* A survivor of gendered violence and an active outdoorswoman, she has participated in initiatives to increase awareness concerning sexual assault, survivorship, and healing through nature and artistic expression. Her literary interests include women poets and storytellers; stories that explore religious imaginations and spirituality; feminist narratives of trauma; eco-poetics, nature writing, and environmental studies; cultural inquiry through cinema, psychology, and medical humanities; and travel writing. She has received residencies and fellowships from the **Bread Loaf Environmental Writers Conference**, Monson Arts, Ghost Ranch, and SAFTA and she has served as an editorial intern for Sundress Publications and Black Earth Institute as well as an associate editor for six years with the *Nimrod International Journal of Prose and Poetry*. Winner of the 2019 Heartland Poetry Prize and a Brooklyn Girls Books prize, her work has appeared in literary journals such as ***The American Poetry Review***, *Copper Nickel*, *Poetry Wales*, *Chicago Quarterly Review*, *Prairie Schooner,* and *The Birmingham Poetry Review*, and featured in the second edition of the textbook *Environmental and Nature Writing: A Writer's Guide and Anthology* for **Bloomsbury Academic**. Currently, Kimberly is an **assistant professor in the Department of Writing, Rhetoric, and Cultures** and affiliate faculty in Center for Gender in Global Context at Michigan State University. She is also a **PhD candidate at the University of Aberdeen** and a guest teaching artist at The Telling Room in Portland, Maine, as well as a member of the Association of Writers and Publishers, Poets & Writers, and Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance. Pronouns: she/her

EDUCATION

University of Aberdeen—Aberdeen Scotland (*in process*, expected graduation 2028)
PhD candidate in Creative Writing with a Concentration in Poetry

- Creative Thesis: *Myst* will be a series of poems that maps internal 'hauntings' (fragmented memories) and identity in a knowable landscape representing historical ancestorial displacement, with a reflective counterpart, *The Performance of Flexible Identities and Migratory Selves in Writing Poetry of Traumatic Memory*, that adds validity to current conversations on the flexibility of psychological identity, art, and trauma and how therapeutic poetic practice can provide opportunities to map the migration of trauma in poetry that directly engages with the way the body holds trauma.
- Mentor: Shane Strachan

New England College—Henniker NH (2017)
MFA in Creative Writing with a Concentration in Poetry/Nonfiction

- Creative Thesis: *White Goat Black Sheep*, a chapbook published by Finishing Line Press, as well as poems featured in *Slaughter the One Bird*, published by Sundress Publications as my first full-length poetry collection. The poems address the embodied experience of victims of childhood sexual assault informed by research and experience and drawing heavily from the theories espoused in Gregory Orr's *Poetry as Survival.*
- Mentors: Paige Ackerson-Kiely and Jennifer Militello

Central Michigan University—Mt. Pleasant MI (2015)
MA in English with a Concentration in Creative Writing (Summa cum Laude), GPA 3.96

- Full-tuition scholarship with paid teaching instructorship
- Nominated by CMU faculty to attend The Juniper Institute, Summer 2015.
- Mentors: Jeffrey Bean and Robert Fanning

Regent University—Virginia Beach VA (2013)
BA in English Language and Literature (Summa cum Laude), GPA 3.98.

- Nominated by faculty and included in *Who's Who Among University and College Students 2013*.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor in the Department of Writing, Rhetoric, and Cultures, College of Arts and Letters, and affiliate faculty in the Center for Gender in Global Context, Michigan State University, East Lansing MI, August 2018-present

- Awarded Designation B status with five-year contract, 2023.
- Honor's College undergraduate research mentor to an undergraduate mentee for a personal poetry project that explored the life of pop icon Rita Hayworth through the lens of gendered violence, personality cult, and American identity and that helped the mentee create a poster presentation on the bikini bathing suit and atomic test site at Bikini Atoll to reveal the impact of test bombs on its ecology and inhabitants as well as the test sites relationship to commercial endeavors. This presentation was shown at MSU's Undergraduate Research and the Arts Forum (UURAF) as well as the HEAL Sexual Health Conference.
- Awarded affiliate faculty status in the Center for Gender in Global Context, 2025.
- Thank An Educator Recognition Award, 2025.

Courses Taught

- **WRA 101 Writing as Inquiry:** The study and practice of invention, arrangement, revision, style, and delivery to help students make successful transitions to writing, reading, and researching in higher education.
- **WRA 195H Writing as Inquiry Honors:** Honors course studying the practice of invention, arrangement, revision, style, and delivery to help students make successful transitions to writing, reading, and researching in higher education while examining contemporary writings by prisoners made available by Pen America; texts used: *Bird by Bird* by Anne Lamott and *Doing Time: 25 Years of Prison Writing* edited by Bell Gale Chevigny.
- **IAH 231B Themes & Moral Issues:** *War Goddesses: The Visual Rhetorics of Pin-Up Culture During WWII* is an Integrative Arts and Humanities course providing an overview of pinup culture during WWII and the post war era using articles, videos, and images to explore representations of women in art as mass-media-produced sex symbols or "pin-ups" in the United States as a unique invention of the WWII era. Suitable to 'pinning up' in footlockers and foxholes, these representations encouraged new ideals concerning female personality and physicality to boost wartime morale and productivity with complicated social consequences.

English Instructor, Central Michigan University **Global Campus**, Mt. Pleasant MI, (virtual) August 2015-August 2018

Courses Taught

- **ENG 101 Freshman Composition:** Development of nonfiction prose writing skills. Students prepare a variety of texts by applying knowledge of composing processes, rhetorical strategies, and textual conventions.
- **ENG 201 Intermediate Composition:** An intensive writing course intended to prepare students for writing in their upper-level major courses and beyond.

Instructor of English, Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee OK, August 2017-May 2018

Courses Taught

- **ENG 1114 Introduction to English:** This course is designed to assist the student who is identified as needing scaffolding for success in college writing and will focus on writing clear, thesis-centered expository and argumentative prose, on reading critically, and on developing research skills.
- **ENG 1153 English Composition: Exposition & Argument:** Emphasis on writing clear, thesis-centered expository and argumentative prose, on reading critically, and on developing research skills.

Coordinator of Pursuits Program, Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee OK, August 2017-May 2018

- Coordinated Pursuits Program to improve student retention and education for developmental English students.
- Conducted student interviews and supervised adjunct instructors in the program.
- Conducted continuing research for best practices in developmental education and program building.
- Independently curated curricular documents.
- Attended developmental education and writing conferences to network, collaborate, and learn best practices for developmental English as well as participating in writing workshops in poetry, fiction and nonfiction.

English Instructor, New England College, Henniker NH, August 2016-May 2017

Courses Taught

- **CW 1100 Introduction to Creative Writing:** A reading and writing workshop-style course that exposes students to the various genres of creative writing such as poetry, fiction, non-fiction, and drama. (virtual)

English Instructor, Alma College, Alma MI, August 2015-May 2016

Courses Taught

- **ENG 100 College Rhetoric:** Development of writing as a process of thinking and communication that involves stages of generating, drafting and revising. Emphasis on writing in several forms for a variety of purposes and audiences. Review of basic paragraph, sentence, and spelling skills. Regular conferences to discuss writing.
- **ENG 101 College Rhetoric II:** Developing critical thinking and reading skills with emphasis on analytical, persuasive and research writing. Development of style and voice. Evaluation of writing from various disciplines and contemporary issues.

- **ENG 180 Studies in Language & Literature:** This course explores everything about poetry that is not words—things like image, space, silence, music, and motion. We will consider a wide range of poetry from work written by the Imagists and the Beats to haiku, proverb, Kaddish, contrapuntal, and renga, and develop a greater understanding and appreciation for non-language-based elements of poetry.

Graduate English Instructor, Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant MI, August 2013-May 2015

Courses Taught

- **ENG 101 Freshman Composition:** Development of nonfiction prose writing skills. Students prepare a variety of texts by applying knowledge of composing processes, rhetorical strategies, and textual conventions.

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION & CONTINUING EDUCATION

ORGANIZATIONS

- **Poets & Writers,** member, 2026-present
- **National Association for Poetry Therapy**, member, 2023-2025
- **Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance**, member, 2023-present
- **Association of Writers & Writing Programs**, member, 2019-present

COMMITTEES

- **Annual Review Advisory Committee**, Department of Writing, Rhetoric, and Culture, Michigan State University, appointed member, 2025.
- **Reappointment, Promotion, & Tenure Committee**, Department of Writing, Rhetoric, and Culture, Michigan State University, member, 2022-2023, 2025-2026.
- **Hearing Committee for Student Grievances**, Department of Writing, Rhetoric, and Culture, Michigan State University, member, 2021-2022.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

- *GenAi and Writing*, FYW Workshop, Department of Writing Rhetoric, and Cultures, **Michigan State University**, 2026.
- *37th Annual Boston International Trauma Conference*, **Trauma Research Foundation**, 10 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits, 2026.
- *Inclusive Pedagogy for Neurodiverse Learners*, UGS Professional Development Session, **Michigan State University**, 2026.
- *Navigating Gender-Focused Foundation Grants and Fellowships*, Center for Gender Studies in Global Context, **Michigan State University**, webinar, 2026.
- *Faith, Hope, and Autism: Biblical Models of Neurodiversity*, Center for Autism and Theology, John Allister, **University of Aberdeen**, seminar, 2026.
- *The Invention of the Celt. Culture, Politics and Nationalism across the Atlantic Arc*, Research Institute of Irish and Scottish Studies, Dr. Micheal Keating, **University of Aberdeen**, seminar, 2026.
- *UKRIO Introduction to Research Integrity*, **University of Aberdeen**, training, 2026.
- *Teaching Critical Thinking in the Age of Gen AI*, Center for Teaching and Learning, **Michigan State University**, workshop, 2026.

- *Writing Your Teaching Philosophy: From Beliefs to Impact*, College of Arts & Letters, **Michigan State University**, workshop, 2026.
- *A. I. in Teaching and Learning*, Center for Teaching and Learning, **Michigan State University**, workshop, 2025.
- Effective Trauma Care Online Course, **The Seattle School**, 8 CEU, course, 2025.
- Instructional Technologies and Development Certification, **Michigan State University**, course, 2025.
- *AI and Curriculum Conversation*, College of Arts & Letters, facilitated by MSU Academic Technology & Scholarly Engagement, **Michigan State University**, workshop, 2024
- *Spirituality, Peacemaking, and Justice: The Importance of Taming the Ego*, MSU Foglio Speaker Series on Spirituality and Justice, Dr. Mark Umbreit, **Michigan State University**, lecture, 2024
- *Trauma Informed Pedagogy 101*, College of Arts and Letters**,** facilitated by MSU Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities and MSU Psychology Clinic, **Michigan State University**, workshop, 2024
- University Health and Wellbeing Focus Group, **Michigan State University**, workshop, 2024
- *Peer Dialogues*, **Michigan State University**, workshop, 2023
- *Giving Sorrow Words*, **National Association for Poetry Therapy**, workshop, 2023
- *Demystifying the Query Letter*, **Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance**, workshop, 2023
- *Embodied Compassion through Self-Regulation: Embracing Our Imperfections through Poetry, Writing, and Action*, **National Association for Poetry Therapy**, workshop, 2023.
- *Narrative Therapy in Practice*, **The Narrative Therapy Institute**, workshop, 2023.
- *MSU Dialogues: Weekly Intergroup Dialogue on Equity & Inclusion*, Department of Institutional Diversity & Inclusion, **Michigan State University**, workshop, 2023.
- *Show & Tell #2: How to Humanize your Online Course and Defining & Exemplifying the Modalities,* Department of Information Technology, **Michigan State University**, workshop, 2022.
- *Supporting Student Mental Health in CAL Courses: A Continuing Conversation for Faculty and Staff,* College of Arts & Letters, **Michigan State University**, workshop, 2021.
- MSU Dialogues Certification, Department of Diversity & Inclusion, **Michigan State University**, course, 2021.
- *Integrating Outside Resources Intro WRAC 101 Courses*, MSU Faculty Workshops, **Michigan State University**, workshop, 2019.
- *Engaging WRAC 101 Projects from the Inside Out: Writing Center Staff Perspective on WRAC 101 Assignments*, MSU Faculty Workshops, **Michigan State University**, workshop, 2018.
- Advocacy Training in Sexual Assault Awareness and Victim Support, **Central Michigan University**, course, 2014.
- Certificate in Online Teaching, **Central Michigan University**, course, 2013.

MENTORSHIPS & OTHER SERVICE

- **Undergraduate Mentor** for the 27th annual University Undergraduate Research and Arts Forum (UURAF), Michigan State University, 2025.
- **Presentation Evaluator** for the 26th annual University Undergraduate Research and Arts Forum (UURAF), Michigan State University, 2024.
- **Honors College Professional Assistant Program Mentor**, Michigan State University, 2023-2025

OTHER EXPERIENCE: TEACHING, ARTS, & ADMINISTRATIVE

Private Poetry Consultations, freelance, 2026-present, ***ongoing***

- I provide honest editorial feedback that inspires positive revisions to bring work closer to an intended publication goal or help a writer amend their aspirations for their work.

Guest Artist, The Telling Room, Portland ME, 2023-present, ***ongoing***
- Serve as creative writing instructor facilitating writing workshops in prose and poetry for ages 8-17 on specialized craft topics in virtual settings, classrooms, and writing camps.

Photographer, freelance, 2000-present, ***ongoing***
- Conduct wedding, portrait, outdoor, & journalistic photography.
- Curate print and digital pieces using film and photo-editing software.

Workshop Volunteer, Portland Adult Education, 2024
- Co-lead individual writing workshops for students in a level 300 College Writing course. Students are immigrants to the United States for whom English is a secondary language. I help these students prepare scholarship applications and essays each time a call is put out for tutors.

Staff, Camp Tapawingo, Sweden ME, 2019, 2021, 2022
- ***Stained Glass & Writing Instructor as Bunk Life Assistant***: Taught stained glass to ages 11-16, led poetry and journaling sessions with ages 6-11, supervised bunks, added various other projects and activities.
- ***Office Staff***: Answered emails and phone, sorted mail and packages, created Excel and Word organizational documents, guided fire drills, helped campers and staff with projects.
- ***Laundry Supervisor***: washed, dried, and folded weekly laundry for 100-200 campers, staff, and kitchen and maintained laundry facility.

Guest Lecturer, Robert Vivian's ENG 190: Creative Writing, Alma College, 2019
- Taught *Naked & Untamed: How to Breed a Wild Hybrid Out of Form and Ferocity*, a lecture and craft session on wildness in hybrid poetry, specifically considering how to take risks with language and form, drawing from Dorothea Lasky's craft book *Animal*.

Guest Lecturer, Robert Vivian's ENG 190: Creative Writing, Alma College, 2015
- Presented on narrative poetry that included a reading in conjunction with Vivian's lecture on narrative poetry.

EDITORIAL ROLES

2026 Backwaters Prize in Poetry Preliminary Judge, University of Nebraska Press, 2026
- Read and rated 50-60 manuscripts for the Backwaters Prize award.

2024 Alice James Book Awards Manuscript Screener, Alice James Books, volunteer, 2023
- Read and rated 75 poetry manuscripts for the Alice James Book Awards.

Associate Poetry Editor for *Nimrod International Journal of Prose and Poetry*, University of Tulsa, volunteer, (remote) 2017-2023
- Read and rated poetry submissions for publication consideration.
- Gave detailed feedback on creative pieces to aid writers in revising and improving their work.
- Attended board meetings virtually.

- Presented on poetic craft at annual Conference for Readers and Writers.

Poetry Judge, Academy of American Poets/Eric Torgerson Prize, Central Michigan University, (remote) 2022

Embody Reader for *The Maine Review*, volunteer, (remote) 2020-2021 (feature discontinued)
- Read weekly nonfiction, fiction, and poems on topics of the body and made selections to be published on The Maine Review website.
- Gave detailed feedback on creative pieces to aid writers in revising and improving their work.

Curator of *The Wardrobe* – *for women, nonbinary, & genderqueer writers,* Sundress Publications, (remote) 2021

Poetry Judge, Sundress Publication's Broadside Competition, (remote) 2020

Summer Intern with Black Earth Institute, Black Earth, WI, 2020
- Managed social media and other IT tasks, communication with Institute fellows and scholars, helping to support for fellows' activities and write reviews for fellows' book publications.
- Mentored college-age interns on reading and evaluating poetry and prose for journal publication.
- Cared for the garden, vineyard, orchard and did restoration work in prairie acres in transition.
- Harvested, preserved, made jam, and delivered produce to local food pantries.

Poetry Judge, ReoTown Art Attack Poetry Competition, Lansing, MI, 2019

Sundress Publications Editorial Intern, Sundress Publications, volunteer, (remote) 2019-2020
- Wrote press releases, blog posts, book descriptions, and promotional emails.
- Assembled press kits, proofread manuscripts, conducted interviews, and collated editorial data.
- Collected and curated all materials for *The Familiar Wild Anthology,* including handling contracts and interacting with authors to ensure a quality experience with the press and product.

The Poetry Club Mark Riztenhein Award Committee*,* committee member, Lansing, MI, 2018- 2019
- Was responsible for social media presence and promotion

Book Reviewer, NewPages, volunteer, (remote) 2015- 2020
- Provided critical feedback on newly released books via thoughtfully articulated reviews to increase awareness of the value of poetry, advertise new work, and boost sales.

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

Gaslight (poetry), **Texas Review Press**, the university press of SHSU, *forthcoming 2027*

Interacting with the plot, script, and characters of the 1944 cinematic production of *Gaslight* starring Ingrid Bergman, Charles Boyer, and Joseph Cotton, this book of poems—titled for the film—exposes the dynamics of gaslighting as the poems perform the speaker's troubled marriage and the deterioration of her mind

alongside the experiences of Bergman's character in the film. In both stories, a husband's effort to hide secret vices and identities emboldens him to manipulate his wife's sanity.

"Priest moves deftly between the glamorous veneer of Hollywood's Golden Age and the intimate, domestic terror of a marriage steeped in manipulation and control. *Gaslight* is both an homage to Ingrid Bergman and a testament to every woman whose reality has been doubted. This is poetry as testimony, as spotlight, as survival." – **Dianelly Antigua**, author of *Good Monster*

Floralia (poetry), **Sundress Publications**, *forthcoming* 2026

Unsettling and cinematic, *Floralia* documents the cyclical and intimate nature of sexual assault, a crime often committed against the body by a person familiar to the victim. Written in three sections, these poems and a radio play confront the insidious influence of abuse and public voyuering, while providing a window into a victim's interiority. Priest writes through the process of survival, what it takes for a person to live with trauma and all the real ways in which it manifests.

"In a poetry that is as compassionate as it is beautiful, Priest shows us how even attempting to name a trauma is a nonlinear effort, a heart's ongoing work." –**Chen Chen**, author of *Your Emergency Contact Has Experienced an Emergency*

Wolves in Shells (poetry), University of Nebraska Press, **winner of the 2024 Backwater's Prize in Poetry**, 2025

- finalist for the 2022 Hollis Summers Poetry Prize, Ohio State University
- finalist for the 2023 The Levis Prize, Four Way Books
- "Protections" featured in *Environmental and Nature Writing: A Writer's Guide and Anthology, 2nd ed.*, Bloomsbury's Writer's Guides and Anthologies, Ed. Sean Prentiss and Joe Wilkins, Bloomsbury Academic, Bloomsbury Publishing

Reflecting on her familial heritage, a mother grapples with the way she, women of her history, and her daughter have been conditioned to accommodate the demands of male ego and predation as she attempts to leave a violent partner. In three sections, *Wolves in Shells* is clear-eyed and incisive, casting O-Six, a wolf born into the rewilding territory of Yellowstone National Park in the 90s, as a metaphor for the woman who escapes and must survive on her own.

"A blistering chronicle of a life lost—children, home, health—and regained. Muriel Rukeyser asked, 'What would happen if one woman told the truth about her life?/ The world would split open.' Each of these poems moves with the honesty of an ax." –**Tomás Q. Morín**, contest judge and author of *Where Are You From: Letters to My Son*

tether & lung (poetry), **Texas Review Press**, the university press of SHSU, 2025

- finalist for the 2021 Moon City Poetry Award, Missouri State University

Set in rural Michigan, *tether & lung* embraces a level of honest sensuality and vulnerability as a heterosexual woman grapples with the needs of her own body while her closeted homosexual husband seeks solace in the animals he loves—his horses. Here, compassion and contempt face each other, asking difficult questions concerning gender, alienation, child-rearing, domestic violence, and divorce.

"Like the finest impressionist paintings, these poems' medium of linguistic light and shadow render the many nuances of a heartfelt and hard-won life, testament to the joys and sorrows of womanhood, motherhood, and marriage. Like the most compelling collections, this book elucidates our understanding of struggles and hopes with utterly unique and surprising tropes." **–Richard Blanco**, fifth Presidential Inaugural Poet and author of *Homeland of my Body*

Slaughter the One Bird (poetry), Sundress Publications, 2021

- finalist for the 2021 American Book Fest Awards in "contemporary poetry"
- finalist for the 2021 American Book Fest Awards in "nature poetry"
- "Trailer House" featured on Verse Daily

Kimberly Ann Priest's debut full-length collection of poetry, *Slaughter the One Bird*, is a haunting and incisive meditation on the enduring effects of childhood sexual abuse. Reflecting on the impact of trauma on her memories and role as a mother, Priest intertwines past and present in a series of lyrical confessions and meditations on power and grief.

"Priest's poems do the hard work of expanding the language for exploring the experience of abuse and trauma, which means they expand our understanding of (in)humanity. These poems are never predictable. They are like flashes of light in shadowed rooms—dark rooms—with bright, illuminating flashes." **–Sue William Silverman**, author of *If the Girl Never Learns* and *How to Survive Death and Other Inconveniences.*

CHAPBOOKS

The Optimist Shelters in Place (poetry)***,*** Harbor Editions, 2022

- Community of Literary Magazines and Presses (CLMP) End of Year List for Best Poetry Books, 2022

A series of vignettes, this chapbook follows the daily routines of a divorced woman at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, during which she ruminates on her accentuated loneliness, adult children, and death.

"Through the lens of collective tragedy and the lived experience of a woman alone, these neo-confessional poems balance the ache of imagining families "sobbing" in hospital parking lots with the personal loss of long isolation, the fresh finality of divorce, and even the tedious need to clean the shower." **–Lisa Fay Coutley**, author of *tether*

Parrot Flower (poetry), Glass Poetry Press, 2021

- finalist for the 2019 Laurel Review Midwest Chapbook Competition
- finalist for the 2019 the Bateau Press Chapbook Competition
- semi-finalist for the 2019 Black River Chapbook Competition

In *Parrot Flower*, a young couple, both survivors of childhood sexual assault, turn to one another and synthetic sources to cope with the trauma that haunts them. Drawing from letters written between Charles Darwin and Joseph Dalton Hooker, the compositions of John Cage, and the story of Brent Brent's—a serial rapist in Denver during the 90s—*Parrot Flower*, explores the process of survival in a series of untitled lyrics. Here, a couple reveals the artifice of avoiding against the authenticity of exploring dark emotions as they are named, dismissed, and reflected in the other.

"Like the eponymous flowers, the poems in *Parrot Flower* oscillate, beautifully, between the familiar and strange, between the therapeutic and poisonous. It's unsettling and cinematic, as if, on the other side of these pages, someone was holding a showing of *Hiroshima Mon Amour*." **–Sam Cha**, author of *The Yellow Book*

still life (poetry), PANK, finalist for the Little Book Awards, 2020

- semi-finalist for the 2019 New Delta Review Chapbook Competition

still life is a fractured carnival of language, each poem casting a pedophile in a new setting under the inspirited control of objects and expectations as the assaulted speaker of these poems is vicariously vivified and muted by animated memories of the pedophilic act. The poems are linguistically tight, prose-y, and punctuated so that the pedophile feels immediately present and inseparable from the speaker.

"Hold tight, this collection will take you on a journey, as it leans into the underbelly of "where the smoke becomes insightful." **–Kelly Grace Thomas**, author of *Boat Burned*

White Goat, Black Sheep (poetry), Finishing Line Press, 2017

This compelling extended lyric bears witness to a young girl's experience with early sexual trauma as she addresses her younger sister, also a victim of the same abusive act. The linked poems are both powerful and beautiful as the sister attempts to make sense of their reeling minds and bodies within a world of inspirited trees and rivers, aphids and stones, and a mother trying to cope with an assault she knows nothing about. Each stanza is incantatory, mystical, and enlightening.

"Haunted, harrowing, blessed—these intertwined, incantatory lyrics, spoken to a sister, dream a winding river from suffering toward a truer redemption." **–Robert Fanning**, author of *Our Sudden Museum, American Prophet,* and *The Seed Thieves*

ANTHOLOGIES

The World We See: Women Poets on Neurodivergence, Ed. Lauren Slaughter, Texas Review Press, *forthcoming 2027*.

- "Little Sermon"
- "Consider the Ferns"

This anthology that focuses on women and non-binary poets that engage with the multitude of perspectives and topics connected to ADHD, Autism, OCD, and other neurodivergent experiences.

Environmental and Nature Writing: A Writer's Guide and Anthology, 2nd ed., Bloomsbury's Writer's Guides and Anthologies, Ed. Sean Prentiss and Joe Wilkins, Bloomsbury Academic, Bloomsbury Publishing, 2025.

- "Protections"

Offering guidance on writing poetry, nonfiction, and fiction, *Environmental and Nature Writing* is a complete introduction to the art and craft of writing about the environment in a wide range of genres. The book also includes an anthology, offering inspiring examples of nature writing in all the genres covered by the book.

Take the Fruit, Flood the Desert: A Religious Trauma Anthology, 2024

- "Preacher's Daughter"

If you were part of the Church, did you question its doctrine, and the way church leaders/family members used it to lead you? Were you confused about faith's impact on your relationship to your body, sex, identity, and boundaries? How did the threat of eternal damnation affect you? Did you experience anxiety, self-loathing, an inability to make decisions? *Take the Fruit, Flood the Desert* is an anthology that rejects the concept of original sin by collecting writing from religious-trauma survivors. This Flood for our times seeks to cleanse us of shame and embody once-forbidden knowledge.

#SPIRIT, White Stag Publishing, 2023

- "A Ritha for Wissal" (what is your death….)
- "A Ritha for Wissal" (Sister, I will speak of love….)

Spirit embodies the ether / the quintessence. It is the ethereal space & what dwells within it; divine beings, spirits & the Fae, even the supra natural. It is engrained in all cultures, in various ways throughout the world; through magic & science, myth & fable. This anthology includes poetry that explores Spirit in its many forms from over 40 different authors from all over the world.

Dwell, South Broadway Press + The Village Institute, 2022

- "I Am Trying to Remember if I Married for Love"

Partnering with a local non-profit, The Village Institute, to raise funds for their operations which include bringing housing, language learning, job readiness workshops, and mental health services to refugee and immigrant families, South Broadway Press's 2022 anthology will explore representations and meanings of "dwell" in poetry and short hybrid pieces.

The Ending Hasn't Happened Yet, Sable Books, 2021

- "A Body Memory," *The Mockingheart Review*
- "Ghosts," *Borderlands: the Texas Poetry Review*

This anthology features work from disabled, chronically ill, and neurodivergent writers. The collection catalogs the intersection between disability and trauma and explores how trauma persists in daily life, even following the 'end' of the traumatic event.

Aeolian Harp Anthology*, Volume Seven*, Glass Lyre Press, 2021

- "Elegy for My Daughter Who Has Never Known a Paradise," *Salamander Magazine*
- "Spirit of the Animal," *Borderlands: Texas Poetry Review*
- "Upon Viewing Katrín Sigurdardóttir's 'Metamorphic'" *Harbor Review*
- "At the Monastic Retreat in Erie, Pennsylvania"
- "My Grandmother's Ashes"
- "The World is Whatever We Choose to Make It," *About Place Journal*

This annual anthology consists of ten "folio" sections for each poet, containing six pieces by each author, of which at least one is previously unpublished. Poems are of any topic and style or form. Each selected author's photo, micro-bio, and personal essay is followed by their sampling of work.

Rewilding: Poems for the Environment Anthology*, Split Rock Review,* Flexible Press, 2020

- "Protections"
- "The Butterfly Habitat"

Rewilding: Poems for the Environment is an essential volume of contemporary poetry that encourages us to reevaluate and restore our relationship with the nonhuman world, featuring poems by Camille Dungy, Joy Harjo, Ted Kooser, Aimee Nezhukumatathil, Craig Santos Perez, Karen Solie, and a 100 more renowned and emerging poets.

New Poetry from the Midwest Anthology*,* New American Press, 2020

- "Practice," **Winner of the 2019 Heartland Poetry Prize**, from *Slaughter the One Bird*

"Midwestern" is a term both vague and diverse in meaning. This annual anthology seizes on these qualities, gathering the best work from the Midwest. Containing stories and poems with heart, it explodes the generally accepted notions of what the Midwest is and what Midwestern writing is, while honoring its rich and long-standing traditions.

Screaming from the Silence Anthology*,* Nightingale and Sparrow Press, 2020

- "my pedophile prefers my childhood"
- "After Molested the Child Remembers Nothing"
- "The Scream"

Though there are lots of projects published and forthcoming that give a much-needed voice to those affected by sexual violence, there isn't a space specifically for those who aren't comfortable sharing their name alongside their stories. The *Screaming from the Silence* anthology hopes to fill that gap and provide that space for poets, writers, and artists. A portion of all profits from sales will be donated to the Joyful Heart Foundation and the National Sexual Violence Resource Center.

Women Under Scrutiny: An Anthology of Truths, Essay, Poems, Stories, and Art*,* Brooklyn Girls Books, 2020

- "Record of Wrongs," **Contest Winner**

Women Under Scrutiny is an honest, intimate examination of the relationships we have with our bodies, hair, and faces, how we've been treated by the world based on our appearance—and how we have treated others.

What Keeps us Here: Songs from The Other Side of Trauma*,* Anti-Heroin Chic*,* 2019

- "A Reflection on Pathos"

This anthology features authors from Anti-Heroin Chic Magazine focusing on trauma and healing.

Hashtag Queer: LGBTQ + Creative Anthology*, Volume 1*, Qommunity LLC*,* 2017

- "Not Human"

Hashtag Queer is a collection of short work in all literary genres (fiction, non-fiction, poetry, scripts) written by and/or about LGBTQ+ people and lives. Many of the pieces are about different aspects of queerness and being queer, while others are about other aspects of life experienced through a queer lens.

EXHIBITS

Forced Migrations, Monson Arts Gallery, 2021

A collection of 11 haiku published by Monson Arts as a limited-edition community zine made available to the public through a local "mailbox" to encourage connection between Monson Arts residents and Monson community members.

We are Worth Everything: Survivors as Themselves, MSU Union Gallery, 2020

- "Celebrate," wall poem accompanying photo display

Collaborative exhibit with photo-journalist Judith Walgren examining portrayals of sexual assault survivors in the media. This body of work, created collaboratively between the photographer and the people portrayed, attempts to expand narrowly focused visual narratives around the Survivor community from Michigan State University.

Sexual Assault Awareness Art Show, Blue Owl Coffee, East Lansing, 2019

- "She"

Display of art and poetry dedicated to the survivors of the Larry Nassar assaults, as well as all survivors in the greater Lansing area.

POEMS

Poems published from 2015 to present, with forthcoming work, in various notable journals such as ***The American Poetry Review***, ***Poetry Wales***, ***Copper Nickel*** (University of Colorado Denver)***, Ruminate***, ***North American Review*** (University of North Iowa), ***Prairie Schooner*** (University of Nebraska, ***Permafrost*** (University of Alaska, Fairbanks), ***The Laurel Review*** (Northwest Missouri State University), ***The Meadow*** (Truckee Meadows Community College), ***The Berkeley Poetry Review*** (University of California), ***RHINO***, ***Midwest Quarterly*** (Pittsburgh State University), ***Cutthroat***, ***North Dakota Quarterly*** (University of North Dakota), ***Salamander*** (Suffolk University), ***Beloit Poetry Journal***, ***Relief*** (Taylor University), ***The Café Review***, ***Sierra Nevada Review*** (University of Nevada), ***Slipstream***, ***Welter*** (University of Baltimore)*,* ***Moon City Review*** (Missouri State University), ***SWIMM***, ***Apricity*** (University of Texas), ***Natural Bridge*** (University of Missouri), ***Stonecoast Review*** (University of Southern Maine), ***EcoTheo***, ***Blue Mountain Review, The Birmingham Poetry Review*** (University of Alabama), ***CALYX***, and others.

Contest Winners & Finalists:

- "Ecofeminism," Charlie Simic Award finalist, *Hole in the Head Review*, 2024
- "Rage Aria," 2023 Adrienne Rich Prize semi-finalist, *Beloit Poetry Journal*
- "Practice," 2019 Heartland Poetry Prize winner, *New Poetry from the Midwest Anthology,* New American Press, 2020.
- "Record of Wrongs," contest winner, *Women Under Scrutiny: An Anthology of Truths, Essay, Poems, Stories, and Art,* Brooklyn Girls Books, 2020.
- "The Sturgeon Under the Snow," contest finalist, McCabe Poetry Prize, *Ruminate Magazine*, 2015.

Nominations:

- "Joseph Cotton {*or* To the Cis-White Men Who Try to Trauma-Bond with Me}," pushcart prize, *The Laurel Review*, 2023
- "Elegy for My Daughter Who Has Never Known a Paradise," pushcart prize, *Glass Lyre Press,* 2022.
- "The World is Whatever We Choose to Make It," pushcart prize, *About Place Journal*, 2020.
- "my pedophile is obsessed with details," "my pedophile requires attention," and "my pedophile experiments with genders," pushcart prize, *The New Delta Review*, 2019
- "This is Not My First Flat Earth Poem," pushcart prize, *The Meadow*, 2019.
- "In the Grass," *The Whale Review*, pushcart prize, 2018.
- "My Friend Believes She Wishes a Miscarriage into Reality," pushcart prize, *Gival Press*, 2017.
- "Old Fashioned Woman," pushcart prize, *The Meadow*, 2017.

PROSE

Fiction, nonfiction, and lyric essays published in notable journals such as ***South Dakota Review*** (University of South Dakota), ***Rock & Sling*** (Whitworth University), ***Relief*** (Taylor University), ***Jet Fuel Review*** (Lewis University), and ***Welter*** (University of Baltimore), among others.

Nominations:

- "In Anticipation of My Husband's Reply," Best Small Fictions, *Jet Fuel Review*, 2022

BOOK REVIEWS

Poetry, nonfiction, & fiction book reviews published bi-annually (or more often) from 2015 to 2025 in notable journals such as ***The Harvard Review***, ***The Colorado Review*** (University of Colorado), ***Tupelo Quarterly***, ***Moon City Review*** (Missouri State University), & ***Ruminate***. Previously volunteered as a reviewer for NewPages.com from 2015-2020, contributing reviews four to five times per years. Sample of titles reviewed:

- *In the Forest of Being Alive,* Katie Ferris, *The Harvard Review*, 2024
- *Animal, Roadkill, Ashes, Gone*, Emily Pittinos, *Moon City Review,* 2023
- *Wild Kingdom*, Jehanne Dubrow, *The Colorado Review*, 2022
- *Dialogues with Rising Tides,* Kelli Russell Agodon, *Ruminate Magazine,* 2021
- *Choice Words: Writers on Abortion,* ed. Annie Finch, *Black Earth Institute,* 2020
- *Remote: Finding Home in the Bitterroots,* DJ Lee, *Black Earth Institute*, 2020
- *Boats Burned,* Kelly Grace Thomas, *Tupelo Quarterly*, 2020
- *MILK,* Dorothea Lasky, *NewPages.com*, 2018
- *Most American,* Rilla Askew, *NewPages.com,* 2017
- *In the Language of My Captor,* Shane McCrae, *NewPages.com,* 2017
- *Blackacre,* Monica Youn, *NewPages.com*, 2017
- *Night Sky with Exit Wounds,* Ocean Vuong, *NewPages.com,* 2016
- *Love, Sex, and 4-H.* Anne-Marie Ooman, *NewPages.com,* 2015
- *The Sun & The Moon,* Kristina Marie Darling, *NewPages.com,* 2015
- *Good Night Brother.* Kimberly Burwick, *NewPages.com,* 2015

SCHOLARLY ARTICLES

- "A Home Without Secret or Lies: On Family and Writing Poems of Childhood Sexual Assault," *Journal of Poetry Therapy*, Volume 34, Issue 4, 2024.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- Interview with Tara Rahman about *Floralia*, Sundress Publications, 2026.
- Interview with Luke Rolfes about *tether &* lung, *Laurel Review*, 2024.
- "Once You've Felt It, You Can't Unknow Its Happening: Social Responses to Stories of Harm," for *Child USA*, February 2023.
- "The Living: My Story of Narrative Justice," for *Child USA*, February 2022.
- "An Interview with Kimberly Ann Priest," with Esteban Rodriguez of EcoTheo Review, 2021.
- "Kimberly Ann Priest Reads Rebecca Lindenberg," with Ashley Hajimirsadeghi of Sundress Publications, 2021.
- "Interview with Kimberly Ann Priest, Author of Slaughter the One Bird," with Eliza Browning of Sundress Publications, 2021.
- Interview with moria i., author of *Bury Me in Thunder,* for Sundress Publications, 2020.
- Interview with Sarah Clark, editor of *beestung,* for Sundress Publications, 2020.
- "Kimberly Ann Priest on Poetry, Resistance, and Trauma," interview by Laura Madeline Wiseman for *The Chapbook Interview,* 2018.
- "Anticipation and Resignation: an interview with Robert Fanning" *The Tishman Review,* 2017.
- "'Strong Words: A Documentary on the Life and Work of Poet Toi Derricotte' premiers at Central Michigan University" *The Pulse*, Mt. Pleasant, MI, 2015.

PRESENTATIONS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

CONFERENCES & FESTIVALS

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- **AWP 2027**, Chicago, IL, panel *Poetic Injustice: Weighting the Costs of Disclosing and Publishing Sexual Trauma* with Connie Post, Phil Goldstien, Elisa Karbin, and Elisa Mercurio, moderator, 2027.
- **Bread Loaf Environmental Writers Conference,** Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT, scholarship recipient and workshop participant, 2026.
- **Verso Frontexo**, Our Lady of the Lake University, San Antonio, TX, featured presenter, 2025.
- **Printers Row Lit Fest**, Chicago, IL, featured presenter for Exhibit B with *Another Chicago Magazine*, 2025.
- **Portland Poetry Festival**, *Beautiful Wreckage: Poems of War, Conflict, and Displacement*, Portland, ME, panelist, 2024.
- **AWP 2024**, Kansas City, MO panel *When the Old Names Fail Us* with Matt W. Miller, Lynn Melnick, Maya Williams, and Octavio Quintanilla, moderator, 2024.
- **Nimrod's Virtual Conference for Readers and Writers**, *Window & Doors & Things: Building Relationships with the Material World in Isolation and Solitude* (poetry workshop), facilitator, 2021.
- **Nimrod's Virtual Conference for Readers and Writers**, *Honoring the Journey: A Poetry Workshop on Creating through Loss and Pain*, facilitator, 2020.
- **AWP 2020** San Antonio, TX: *Mapping the Edges of Our Wounds: A Generative Workshop on Poetry and Sexual Assault,* workshop with MSU Writing, Rhetoric, & American Cultures faculty, facilitator, creator, and presenter, 2020.

- **Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature Symposium** (SSML), *Poetry of Sexual Assault,* Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, presenter, 2019.
- **Windhover Writer's Festival**, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, Belton, TX, featured poetry reader, 2018.
- **Nimrod Write Night and Conference for Readers and Writers**, University of Tulsa campus, Tulsa, OK, scholarship recipient, 2017.
- **3rd Annual Conference on English Studies: Autonomy, Authority, Anarchy,** *Autonomy, Authority, Anarchy in Poetry and in Life*, Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant, MI, panelist, 2014.

WORKSHOPS

- **SWARM Hive 30**, *The Writer in Place*, The Telling Room, Portland, ME, guest artist, (virtual) 2026
- **Poetry Camp**, *Speaking to Poems*, The Telling Room, Portland, ME, guest artist, 2025
- **SWARM Hive 29**, *Revision Strategies for Poetry*, The Telling Room, Portland, ME, guest artist, (virtual) 2025
- **Poetry Camp**, *Writing Recycled Poetry*, The Telling Room, Portland, ME, guest artist, 2024
- **Living Writers Series**, The Eilis School (high school), Pittsburgh, PA, guest artist, (virtual) 2024
- **Camden Poetry Festival**, *Into Wildness: The Untamed Nature Poem*, Camden Congregational Church, facilitator, Camden, ME, 2024
- **SWARM Hive 28,** *A Place to Put Your Face: Body Language & Expression in the Poem*, The Telling Room, Portland, ME, guest artist, (virtual) 2024

ARTIST RESIDENCIES

- **Inaugural Artist-in-Residence**, **Highland Grove Arts**, Bridgton, ME—November 2026-May 2027
- **Artist-in-Residence**, **Ghost Ranch**, Estudio Corazon Residency, Abiquiu, NM—January 2026
- **James Tolan Writer-in-Residence, Writers House Pittsburgh,** Pittsburgh, PA—September 2021-August 2022
- **Writer-in-Residence, Owsley Fork Sanctuary,** Berea, KY—December 2021
- **Resident Artist, Monson Arts Residency,** Monson, ME—January 10-22, 2021
- **Writer-in-Residence, Sundress Academy @ FireFly Farms,** Knoxville, TN—October 14-20, 2019

READINGS & PUBLIC SPEAKING

Featured poet for *Blue Raven Arts Reading Series* with **Bruce Willard**, *Mercy Street Reading* with guest host **Ben Kline**, *A Hundred Pitchers of Honey Reading Series* with host **Donna Vorreyer**, *Virtual Fridays Dire Literary Series* with host **Timothy Gager**, *The Wild & Precious Life Series* with host **Dustin Brookshire**, *A Child Walks in the Dark: A Podcast on Parenting and Creativity* with host **Darren C Demaree**, *The Moon Under Water Podcast* with hosts **Kelly Daniels** and **Steve Jones**, *The Drunken Odyssey*—a Podcast about the Writing Life with host **John King**, and *Wednesday Night Poetry Through the Pandemic* with host **Kai Coggin**. Other readings and speaking engagements include:

- *Sunday Salon Chicago*, Chicago, Illinois, featured reader, October 2026.
- *Belfast Poetry Fest*, Belfast, Maine, poetry crawl reader, October 2026.
- *Poetry Month Reading* hosted by John Gillespie, Topsham Library, Topsham, Maine, featured poet, April 2026.
- *Poetry Medicine for the Soul*, a podcast with John Gillespie, featured poet, February 2026.
- *Lightning Strikes: WRAC Spring 2025 Faculty Symposium,* Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, presenter, February 2026.

- **BOOK LAUNCH:** *A Poetry Reading and Dialogue on Writing Life Narratives Across Books*, a book launch for my third full-length book *Wolves in Shells* (University of Nebraska Press) at Print: A Bookstore with donation opportunity provided for Maine Needs, Portland, ME, featured presenter, 2026.
- *The Color Blue: Poems of Autistic Identity*, **Ghost Ranch**, Abiquiu, New Mexico, featured artist-in-residence, 2026.
- **BOOK LAUNCH**: *This Desire is Not My Desire: an exploration through poetry of social, cultural, and political expectations concerning the gendered body*, book launch for my second full-length book *tether & lung* (TRP: the university press of SHSU) with Robert Carr, Portland, ME, facilitator & presenter, 2025.
- **AWP 2025**, Los Angeles, CA: *Riot in Your Throat & Small Harbor Publishing Reading.*
- *Lightning Strikes: WRAC Spring 2025 Faculty Symposium,* Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, featured presenter, March 2025.
- **AWP 2024**, Kansas City, MO: *Wednesday Night Poetry Reading*, *Black Lily Reading.*
- *Maine Authors for Lewiston*, Curtis Memorial Library, Brunswick, ME, participant, 2023.
- *Wednesday Night Poetry*, featured poet, (virtual) 2023.
- **AWP 2023**, Seattle, WA: *Wednesday Night Poetry Reading*, *Sundress Publications Reading*, *One Poet One Poem Reading* with Image, Presence, Rock & Sling, Whale Road Review, & WordFarm.
- *Lightning Strikes: WRAC Spring 2023 Faculty Symposium,* Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, featured presenter, February 2023.
- **AWP 2022**, Philadelphia, PA: *Wednesday Night Poetry Reading*, *PANK Reading.*
- **SMOL Fair 2022** (virtual): *Small Harbor Publishing Reading, Sundress Publications Reading.*
- Poetry reading with Janine Certo at Riverstone Bookstore, Pittsburgh, PA 2021.
- **BOOK LAUNCH**: *Honoring the Harmed Self: A Celebration of Women Poets Giving Voice to Pain & Consolation* for first full-length book *Slaughter the One Bird* (Sundress Publications) with Allison Blevins, Kim Young, Sally Rosen Kindred, Connie Post, Traci Brimhall, Julie L. Moore, & Sarah Henning, (virtual) 2021.
- *The Meijer Visiting Writer's Series* featured with Dennis Hinrichsen, Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant, MI 2021.
- *Coming Up Verse: Remote Revivals in Poetry and Song* hosted by M. Bartley Seigel, Michigan Tech University, Houghton, MI (virtual) 2021.
- [PANK] *End of the World Party*, (virtual) 2021.
- [PANK] Fall Book Launch, (virtual) 2020.
- *Finding Our Voice: Sister Survivors Speak* opening reception, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 2019.
- **AWP 2020** San Antonio, TX: *Sierra Nevada University Reading.*
- *Lightning Strikes: WRAC Fall 2019 Faculty Symposium,* Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, featured presenter, November 2019.
- *Lightning Strikes: WRAC Spring 2019 Faculty Symposium,* Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, featured presenter, April 2019.
- *Your Story Continued—a Mental Health Showcase,* The Diabribe & Be Nice, Grand Rapids, MI, 2018.
- *Stop the Silence Performance,* Central Michigan University Sexual Aggression Peer Advocates. & Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, Mt. Pleasant, MI, 2015.