

POETRYNOW WITH THE POETRY FOUNDATION

Broadcast Schedule – Spring 2017

PROGRAM #: PN1640

RELEASE DATE: Monday, March 27, 2017

Quraysh Ali Lansana - “rudie can’t fail in south padre”

Quraysh Ali Lansana recalls a compromised night on the U.S./Mexico border.

Quraysh Ali Lansana

Quraysh Ali Lansana was born in Enid, Oklahoma and earned his MFA from New York University, where he was a Departmental Fellow. He is the author of the poetry collections *mystic turf* (2012), *They Shall Run: Harriet Tubman Poems* (2004), and *Southside Rain* (2000); his chapbooks include *reluctant minivan* (2014), *bloodsoil (sooner red)* (2009), *Greatest Hits: 1995-2005* (2006), and *cockroach children: corner poems and street psalms* (1995). He has also written a children’s book, *The Big World* (1999).

He is the editor of Glencoe/McGraw-Hill's *African American Literature Reader* (2001). Other editing projects include the anthologies *I Represent* (1996) and *dream in yourself* (1997), both from Chicago's award-winning youth arts employment program, Gallery 37. He is also co-editor of *Dream of A Word: The Tia Chucha Press Poetry Anthology* (2006) and *Role Call: A Generational Anthology of Social and Political Black Literature and Art* (2002). *Our Difficult Sunlight: A Guide to Poetry, Literacy & Social Justice in Classroom & Community* (with Georgia A. Popoff) was published in 2011 by Teachers & Writers Collaborative and was a 2012 NAACP Image Award nominee. Recent books include *The Walmart Republic*, with Christopher Stewart (2014) and *The Breakbeat Poets: New American Poetry in the Age of Hip Hop* (2015). Forthcoming books include *A Gift from Greensboro* (Penny Candy Books, 2016); *Clara Luper: The Woman Who Rallied the Children*, with Julie Dill (Oklahoma Hall of Fame Press, 2017); *Revise the Psalm: Work Celebrating the Writings of Gwendolyn Brooks*, with Sandra Jackson-Opoku (Curbside Splendor, 2017); and *The Whiskey of Our Discontent: Gwendolyn Brooks as Conscience and Change Agent*, with Georgia A. Popoff (Haymarket Books, 2017).

Lansana has been a literary teaching artist and curriculum developer for over a decade and has led workshops in prisons, public schools, and universities in over 30 states.

He is a former faculty member of the Drama Division of The Juilliard School, and served as Director of the Gwendolyn Brooks Center for Black Literature and Creative Writing at Chicago State University from 2002-2011, where he was also Associate Professor of English/Creative Writing. Currently, Lansana is on faculty in the Creative Writing Program of the School of the Art Institute in Chicago and the Red Earth MFA Creative Writing Program at Oklahoma City University.

Passage, his poetry video collaboration with Kurt Heintz, won the first ever Image Union/Bob Award from WTTW-TV (PBS). He is the recipient of other awards, including the 2006 Securing the Future Award from ETA Creative Arts Foundation; the 2000 Poet of the Year Award, presented by Chicago's Black Book Fair; the 1999 Henry Blakely Award, presented

by Gwendolyn Brooks; and the 1999 Wallace W. Douglas Distinguished Service Award, presented by Young Chicago Authors, Inc.

Bio: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems-and-poets/poets/detail/quraysh-ali-lansana>

PROGRAM #: PN1641

RELEASE DATE: Monday, April 3, 2017

Tyrone Williams - “P R N D”

Tyrone Williams imagines a motorist’s confrontation with the police in a strip mall parking lot.

Tyrone Williams

Poet Tyrone Williams was born in Detroit, Michigan and earned his BA, MA, and PhD at Wayne State University. He is the author of a number of chapbooks, including *Convalescence* (1987); *Futures, Elections* (2004); *Musique Noir* (2006); and *Pink Tie* (2011), among others. His full-length collections of poetry include *c.c.* (2002), *On Spec* (2008), *The Hero Project* (2009), *Adventures of Pi* (2011), and *Howell* (2011).

Williams’s work draws on a variety of sources to challenge and investigate language, history, and race. In an interview with the *Volta* Williams noted, “I don’t ‘revere’ the English language but I use it and, on occasion, abuse it.” And of his interest in grammar and linguistics, he stated: “every grammatical marker is purposeful ... every torque of the language renders ‘meaning’ problematic—which seems to me the precise ‘condition’ of African-American existence in particular and ‘American’ life in general.”

Williams is the editor of *African American Literature: Revised Edition* (2008). He teaches at Xavier University in Cincinnati. In October 2013, Williams was a featured writer for *Harriet*.

Bio: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems-and-poets/poets/detail/tyrone-williams>

PROGRAM #: PN1642

RELEASE DATE: Monday, April 10, 2017

Fady Joudah - “National Park”

Fady Joudah describes a car ride through a national park and observes wildlife, both living and dead.

Fady Joudah

Fady Joudah is a Palestinian American physician, poet, and translator. The son of Palestinian refugees, poet Fady Joudah was born in Austin, Texas, and grew up in Libya and Saudi Arabia. He was educated at the University of Georgia, the Medical College of Georgia, and the University of Texas.

Joudah's debut collection of poetry, *The Earth in the Attic* (2008), won the 2007 Yale Series of Younger Poets competition and was a finalist for ForeWord's Book of the Year Award. "I wanted to do something different with poetry in the sense that as a son of refugees, exile for me was not a metaphorical state, it was a lineage," he said in a 2008 interview with the Houston Chronicle. "I wanted to engage the concept of the stateless person as a theme. For me, being a physician, patients are displaced people, at least momentarily. I wanted to take that to a larger stage, a world stage." Joudah followed his second book of poetry is *Alight* (2013) with the ebook *Textu* (2013), a collection of poems written on a cell phone that are exactly 160 characters long.

Influenced by poets Mahmoud Darwish and Rainer Maria Rilke, Joudah's precise, often narratively driven poems often take on themes of faith, struggle, and identity with urgent clarity. As critic Charles Bainbridge observed in a 2008 Guardian review of *The Earth in the Attic*, "Joudah's poetry thrives on dramatic shifts in perspective, on continually challenging received notions."

Joudah translated the final three collections of Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish's work in *The Butterfly's Burden* (2006), which won Banipal prize from the UK and was a finalist for the PEN Award for Poetry in Translation. His translation of Ghassan Zaqtan's *Like a Straw Bird It Follows Me* (2012) won the Griffin International Poetry Prize in 2013.

Joudah lives with his family in Houston, where he works as a physician.

Bio: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems-and-poets/poets/detail/fady-joudah>

PROGRAM #: PN1643

RELEASE DATE: Monday, April 17, 2017

Caitlin Doyle - "The Editor's Ex"

Caitlin Doyle thinks about romance novels at the end of a relationship.

Caitlin Doyle was born and raised on Long Island, New York. She earned her BA from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she was the Thomas Wolfe Scholar in Creative Writing, and her MFA from Boston University, where she held the George Starbuck Fellowship in Poetry. Her poems, essays, and reviews have appeared widely in such publications as the *Atlantic*, *Boston Review*, *Black Warrior Review*, the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, and the *Threepenny Review*. Doyle's poetry has been anthologized in *The Best Emerging Poets of 2013*, *The Southern Poetry Anthology*, *Best New Poets 2009*, and *The Crafty Poet: A Portable Anthology*, among others. Her work has been featured on the PBS NewsHour Online Poetry Series.

Doyle has held Writer-In-Residence teaching positions at Penn State, St. Albans School, and Interlochen Arts Academy. Her awards and fellowships include residencies at the Yaddo Colony, the James Merrill House, and the MacDowell Colony, as well as an Amy Award in Poetry through Poets & Writers. She has received scholarships through the Bread Loaf Writers'

Conference, the Association of Writers & Writing Programs, the Sewanee Writers' Conference, and the Academy of American Poets. She is currently an Elliston Fellow in Poetry at the University of Cincinnati.

Bio: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems-and-poets/poets/detail/caitlin-doyle>

PROGRAM #: PN1644
RELEASE DATE: Monday, April 24, 2017

Camille Guthrie - "Be More Like Björk"

Camille Guthrie discusses the virtues of living like Icelandic popstar Björk.

Born in Seattle and raised in Pittsburgh, poet Camille Guthrie earned a BA at Vassar College and an MFA at Brown University. She is the author of the poetry collections *The Master Thief* (2000) and *In Captivity* (2006). Her experimental long poems and inter-textual poetic sequences often engage with ongoing literary conversations. In an interview with *Chicago Review*, Guthrie stated, "Writing about another text or object and in poetic form often serves as a self-inflicted restraint in my work; forms are surely a kind of capture, scrupulous and absorbing rituals. Then it's satisfying to wreck them somehow, to make them imperfect." Guthrie has taught at New York University and Bennington College. She lives in Brooklyn.

In April 2013, Guthrie was a featured writer on *Harriet*.

Bio: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems-and-poets/poets/detail/camille-guthrie>

PROGRAM #: PN1645
RELEASE DATE: Monday, May 1, 2017

Timothy Yu - "Chinese Dream 14"

Timothy Yu meditates on perceptions of race, on television and in social media.

Poet and scholar Timothy Yu was born and raised in the suburbs of Chicago. He earned his BA at Harvard and a PhD at Stanford University. Yu's scholarly and creative work explores the intersections of race and avant-garde writing traditions; his first book of criticism *Race and the Avant-Garde: Experimental and Asian American Poetry Since 1965* (2009) won the Book Award in Literary Studies from the Association for Asian American Studies. He is the author of four chapbooks of poetry: *Immersion* (1995); *Postcard Poems* (2003), cowritten with Cassie Lewis; *Journey to the West* (2006), which won a Vincent Chin Memorial Chapbook Prize from Kundiman; and *15 Chinese Silences* (2012), which is part of a longer work that takes its impetus from the Billy Collins poem "Grave." Yu has said of this project: "I took it upon myself to write these silences, which for me became a symbol of the way Asia and Asians are present, yet silenced, in American culture."

Yu's poems and criticism have appeared in journals such as *Contemporary Literature*, *Shampoo*, and *Genre*. He lives with his wife and daughter in Madison, Wisconsin, where he is an associate professor at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. His newest book, *100 Chinese Silences*, will be published by Les Figues Press.

Bio: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems-and-poets/poets/detail/timothy-yu>

PROGRAM #: PN1646
RELEASE DATE: Monday, May 8, 2017

Simone White - “Hour in which I consider hydrangea”

Simone White documents a mother's life with her infant son.

Simone White was born Middletown, Connecticut, and raised in Philadelphia. She earned her BA from Wesleyan University, JD from Harvard Law School, and MFA from the New School. White is the author of the full-length collection *House Envy of All the World* (2010) and the chapbooks *Dolly* (2008) and *Unrest* (2013). Her work has been praised for its innovative complexity, allusive song, and “lyric deconstruction of desire, entitlement, blackness, the domestic, language and diction,” in the words of Anna Moschovakis. White has received fellowships from Cave Canem and was selected as a New American Poet for the Poetry Society of America. She is completing a PhD in English at the CUNY Graduate Center and lives in Brooklyn, New York.

In April 2014, Simone White was a featured writer for *Harriet*.

Bio: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems-and-poets/poets/detail/simone-white>

PROGRAM #: PN1647
RELEASE DATE: Monday, May 15, 2017

Joyelle McSweeney - “Adriaen het Kint”

Joyelle McSweeney thinks about various forms of infection and contagion facing the human race.

Joyelle McSweeney was born in Boston and spent most of her childhood in suburban Philadelphia. She has a BA from Harvard University; an MPhil in English studies from Oxford University, where she was a Marshall Scholar; and an MFA from the University of Iowa Writers' Workshop.

McSweeney's collections of poetry include *The Red Bird* (2002), winner of the 2001 Fence Modern Poetry Series, and *The Commandrine and Other Poems* (2004). She is also author of the novels *Nyland, the Sarcographer* (2007) and *Flet* (2007).

In an interview McSweeney described what she called her “magpie-aesthetic,” apparent in *The Red Bird*, noting that “even when I’m not writing with overtly found materials, I think my brain works on language the same way—selecting, assembling, sounding out complexes and runs.” Matthew Henriksen commented on the technique in a review of *The Commandrine and Other Poems*: “Perspectives may diverge and take hold of their own visions. . . . McSweeney treats words, like images, as instances of their precise contents rather than symbolic references.”

Joyelle McSweeney is co-founder of www.actionyes.org, a web-based journal featuring international writing and hybrid forms, and Action Books, a press that publishes poetry and books in translation. She has taught at the University of Notre Dame and the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa.

In April 2014, Joyelle McSweeney was a featured writer for *Harriet*.

Bio: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems-and-poets/poets/detail/joyelle-mcsweeney>

PROGRAM #: PN1648
RELEASE DATE: Monday, May 22, 2017

Hai-Dang Phan - “The Endless Boat”

Hai-Dang Phan examines archival documents concerning the abduction of a young Vietnamese woman by Thai pirates in the 1980s.

Hai-Dang Phan was born in Vietnam and grew up in Wisconsin. He is an assistant professor of English at Grinnell College.

Bio: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems-and-poets/poets/detail/hai-dang-phan>

PROGRAM #: PN1649
RELEASE DATE: Monday, May 29, 2017

Hayan Charara - “Nothing Happened in 1999”

Hayan Charara considers how the world would be different today if certain historically significant events had not taken place in the late 1990s.

The son of Lebanese immigrants, Hayan Charara grew up in Detroit, Michigan. He earned a BA in English from Wayne State University, an MA in humanities from New York University, and a PhD in literature and creative writing from the University of Houston. He is the author of the poetry collections *The Alchemist’s Diary* (2001), *The Sadness of Others* (2006), and *Something Sinister* (Carnegie Mellon, 2016). His work often explores family, loss, identity, and the experience of growing up Arab American in Detroit.

Charara is the editor of the annual literary anthology *Graffiti Rag*; he also edited *Inclined to Speak: An Anthology of Contemporary Arab American Poetry* (2008). He received a National

Endowment for the Arts literature fellowship in 2009. His children's book *The Three Lucys* won the Lee & Low Books' New Voices Award Honor.

Bio: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems-and-poets/poets/detail/hayan-charara>

PROGRAM #: PN1650
RELEASE DATE: Monday, June 5, 2017

Melissa Broder - "Late Melt"

Melissa Broder writes about self-realization and survival.

Poet and essayist Melissa Broder grew up in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, near Philadelphia. She earned a BA at Tufts University and an MFA at the City College of New York.

In her lush, wryly vulnerable poems, Broder embraces the darkness of daily life. Explaining her writing process—Broder prefers to compose while in transit—in a 2012 conversation with Peter Moysaenko for *BOMB*, Broder states, "I'm a perfectionist. A nice desk in a pretty room doesn't work for me, because the expectation that IT'S TIME TO MAKE ART is too high. I have to outwit myself and act casual—to approach with a sense of play. That doesn't mean I never get "serious." It's just a question of outrunning the shit-talker within. There's something about writing on the subway, or while walking, that frees the subconscious. It's sort of a rebellion thing, like, I'm not really supposed to be doing this here now." In that *BOMB* profile, Moysaenko describes *Meat Heart*, Broder's second collection, as "a sleek machine hauling gnarly cargo—persons, places, things, things, things. ... Because Melissa's projections—more pop personist than personal—lay forth, and are laid upon, a sense of spirit contingent on body, we get more than love songs. We get skewed prayers. We get banquets. Transfigurations and showdowns, tough ghosts and fake heavens, escapades through culture-struck waking dreams and flaming cities of memory."

Broder is the author of several poetry collections, including *When You Say One Thing but Mean Your Mother* (2010), *Scarecrow* (2014), and *Last Sext* (2016), and the essay collection *So Sad Today* (2016), based on her posts on Twitter. "Emily Dickinson would have been great at Twitter," Broder states in a conversation with Bryn Lovitt for a 2016 Vanity Fair profile, noting the 140-character economy of the form.

Broder has served as director of media and special projects at NewHive, a publicist for Penguin, editor in chief for *La Petite Zine*, and organizer of the Polestar Poetry Series. She lives in Venice, California.

Bio: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems-and-poets/poets/detail/melissa-broder>

PROGRAM #: PN1651
RELEASE DATE: Monday, June 12, 2017

Andrew Zawacki - “Gratophoph”

Andrew Zawacki writes a poem beginning with a mispronounced word spoken by his young son.

Andrew Zawacki is the author of four books of poetry: *Videotape* (2013), *Petals of Zero Petals of One* (2009), *Anabranch* (2004), and *By Reason of Breakings* (2002). His many chapbooks include *Glassscape* (2011), *Zerogarden* (2011), *Roche limit* (2010), *Bartleby’s Wastebook* (2009), *Videotape* (2009), and *Masquerade* (2001). In his poems, Zawacki explores language and landscape, and he has described his interest in ecopoetics as well as the “electronic” conditions of life that are also “a crucial—and not always destructive—part of our human ecosystem.” His poetry has been translated into French, Italian, Russian, and Slovenian. His criticism has appeared in magazines and journals such as the *Times Literary Supplement*, the *Boston Review*, *How2*, and *Open Letter*.

Zawacki is the recipient of a Slovenian Ministry of Culture Translation Grant and editor of *Afterwards: Slovenian Writing 1945–1995* (1999). He edited and co-translated *Without Anesthesia: New & Selected Poems* (2011), Aleš Debeljak’s new and selected poems. Zawacki has also translated French poet Sébastien Smirou’s *My Lorenzo* (2012). His many editing projects include Gustaf Sobin’s *Collected Poems* (2010) and *Miracle of Measure Ascendant: A Festschrift for Gustaf Sobin* (2005) as well as the *Verse Book of Interviews* (2005).

A former Rhodes scholar and Fulbright fellow, Zawacki earned a PhD from the John U. Nef Committee on Social Thought at the University of Chicago and is a former fellow of the Slovenian Writers’ Association. His honors and awards include fellowships from the Salzburg Seminar, Hawthornden Castle, the Bogliasco Foundation, Le Château de Lavigny, and the Millay Colony. He currently teaches at the University of Georgia, where he directs the creative writing program.

Bio: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems-and-poets/poets/detail/andrew-zawacki>

PROGRAM #: PN1652

RELEASE DATE: Monday, June 19, 2017

Atsuro Riley - “Moth”

Atsuro Riley imagines the life of a young runaway from the south.

Atsuro Riley grew up in South Carolina lowcountry and lives in San Francisco. His heavily stressed, percussive, consonant-rich, free-verse poems conjure up the elemental images of the lives of people inhabiting a specific, acutely portrayed landscape. His poems are dense with impressions, voices, and glimpses of people who have experienced the Vietnam War, rural life, and the South. Though grounded in a world that seems unmistakably North American, the poems’ rich Anglo-Saxon textures are reminiscent of the works of Gerard Manley Hopkins and Basil Bunting.

Riley’s work has been anthologized in *The Open Door: 100 Poems, 100 Years of Poetry Magazine* (2012), *The Oxford Anthology of Contemporary American Poetry* (2014), *Poems of*

the American South (2014), and *The McSweeney's Book of Poets Picking Poets* (2007). He has received the Whiting Writers' Award, a Pushcart Prize, the J. Howard and M.J. Wood Prize from Poetry magazine, a NEA fellowship and a Lannan Literary fellowship. His first book, *Romey's Order* (2010), received the Kate Tufts Discovery Award, *The Believer* Poetry Award, and a Witter Bynner Award from the Library of Congress.

Bio: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems-and-poets/poets/detail/atsuro-riley>