

POETRYNOW WITH THE POETRY FOUNDATION

Broadcast Schedule – Fall 2017

PROGRAM #: PN 17-14
RELEASE DATE: Monday, September 25, 2017

Ana Božičević - “Who’s That”

Ana Božičević explores the feelings and emotions of spring.

Ana Božičević

Born in Zagreb, Croatia, Božičević emigrated to New York City in 1997 and studied at Hunter College. She is the author of several chapbooks, including *Morning News* (2006) and *Document* (2007). Her first book-length collection, *Stars of the Night Commute* (2009) was Lambda Literary Award finalist, and her second book *Rise in the Fall* (2013) won a Lambda Literary Award.

Travelers and messengers figure in Božičević’s dreamlike poems of shifting diction, narrative, and settings. Chris Tonelli, reviewing the chapbook *Document*, commented that “by expertly combining the rhetoric of narrative with the agility of surrealism, Božičević creates a landscape, and a cast of characters within that landscape, for which flux is the only stable thing.”

Božičević has worked for the PEN American Center and the Center for the Humanities of the Graduate Center, CUNY. She codirects the Stain of Poetry reading series in Brooklyn, New York.

Bio: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems-and-poets/poets/detail/ana-bozicevic>

PROGRAM #: PN 17-15
RELEASE DATE: Monday, October 2, 2017

Reginald Dwayne Betts - “Temptation of the Rope”

Reginald Dwayne Betts recalls a fellow inmate with respect and admiration for the man’s integrity.

Reginald Dwayne Betts

Reginald Dwayne Betts is the author of a memoir and two books of poetry. His memoir, *A Question of Freedom: A Memoir of Learning, Survival, and Coming of Age in Prison* (Avery/Penguin, 2009), was awarded the 2010 NAACP Image Award for non-fiction. His books of poetry are *Shahid Reads His Own Palm* (Alice James, 2010) and *Bastards of the Reagan Era* (Four Way Books, 2015). Betts is a 2010 Soros Justice Fellow, 2011 Radcliffe Fellow, and 2012 Ruth Lilly and Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Poetry Fellow. In 2012, Betts was appointed to the Coordinating Council of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention by President Obama. He is a graduate of Prince George’s Community College, the University of Maryland, the MFA Program at Warren Wilson College, and is currently a student at Yale Law School.

Bio: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems-and-poets/poets/detail/reginald-dwayne-betts>

PROGRAM #: PN 17-16
RELEASE DATE: Monday, October 9, 2017

Noelle Kocot - “They”

Noelle Kocot investigates the politics and power of the pronoun “they.”

Noelle Kocot

Noelle Kocot is the author of *4* and *The Raving Fortune* and the recipient of several awards, including an NEA fellowship. Widow of composer Damon Tomblin, she lives in Brooklyn, where she was born and raised.

Bio: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems-and-poets/poets/detail/noelle-kocot>

PROGRAM #: PN 17-17
RELEASE DATE: Monday, October 16, 2017

Barbara Jane Reyes - “Psalm for Mary Jane Veloso

Barbara Jane Reyes remembers and praises the life of Mary Jane Veloso, a Filipina domestic worker who was swindled into becoming a drug mule.

Barbara Jane Reyes

Barbara Jane Reyes was born in Manila, the Philippines, and grew up in the San Francisco Bay area. She earned a BA in ethnic studies from the University of California at Berkeley and an MFA from San Francisco State University. She is the author of the poetry collections *Gravities of Center* (2003), *Poeta en San Francisco* (2005), winner of the James Laughlin Award from the Academy of American Poets, and *Diwata* (2010).

Her work explores a variety of cultural, historical, and geographical perspectives. In *Poeta en San Francisco* Reyes employs English, Spanish, and Tagalog to create a devastating portrait of her hometown. Craig Perez noted in a *Rain Taxi* review that “throughout *Poeta*, we witness the intersecting trajectories of body, self, culture and city.” In a review for *Bluefifth*, Nicole Cartwright Denison commented that by “drawing heavily upon inspiration from Filipino creation myths, along with multiple biblical and classical allusions ... *Poeta en San Francisco* transforms her hometown into the broader world teeming with struggle, with life wasted and wanted, with hope leaking from the edges.”

With her husband, the poet Oscar Bermeo, Reyes co-edits Doveglion Press, which publishes political literature. She has taught creative writing at Mills College and Philippine studies at the University of San Francisco.

Bio: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems-and-poets/poets/detail/barbara-jane-reyes>

PROGRAM #: PN 17-18
RELEASE DATE: Monday, October 23, 2017

erica lewis - “ain’t that easy”

erica lewis riffs on a line by Dianna Ross & the Supremes to begin investigating her current life.

erica lewis

erica lewis was born in Cincinnati, Ohio. Her books include the precipice of *jupiter* (2009, with artist Mark Stephen Finein), *camera obscura* (2010, with artist Mark Stephen Finein), *murmur in the inventory* (2013); and the first two books of the box set trilogy: *daryl hall is my boyfriend* (2015) and *mary wants to be a superwoman* (2017). Her chapbooks have been published by Belladonna, Lame House Press, and After Hours/The Song Cave.

lewis lives in San Francisco, where she is a fine arts publicist.

Bio: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems-and-poets/poets/detail/erica-lewis>

PROGRAM #: PN 17-19
RELEASE DATE: Monday, October 30, 2017

Vincent Katz - “Between the Griffon and Met Life”

Vincent Katz observes a March evening as the city of New York goes about its daily life.

Vincent Katz

Vincent Katz is a poet, translator, curator, and critic. He earned his BA from the University of Chicago and his MA from Oxford University. He is the author of numerous collections of poetry, including *Cabal of Zealots* (1988), *Understanding Objects* (2000), *Rapid Departures* (2005), *Swimming Home* (2015), and *Southness* (2016). He is also an author of *Fantastic Caryatids* (2017), a collaboration with Anne Waldman. Interested in perception, panorama, and the layered rhythms of contemporary experience, Katz was described as a “21st century flâneur” by Raphael Rubinstein; his deceptively casual lines are often compared to New York School poets such as Frank O’Hara and Edwin Denby. Katz’s many book collaborations with artists include *Alcuni Telefonini* with Francesco Clemente (2008), *Judge* with Wayne Gonzales (2007), and two books with James Brown, *Voyages* (1994, 2000) and *Hyde Park Boulevard* (2000), among others.

His translations of Latin poetry include *Charm: Sextus Propertius* (1995) and *The Complete Elegies of Sextus Propertius* (2004), which won a National Translation Award. Katz also edited and wrote the introduction to *Poems to Work On: The Collected Poems of Jim Dine* (2015).

He has curated exhibitions on the work of Rudy Burckhardt for the Institute of Modern Art in Valencia, Spain, the Grey Art Gallery at NYU, and the Museum of the City of New York. With Vivien Bittencourt, he made a documentary on Burckhardt called *Man in the Woods: The Art of Rudy Burckhardt*. The film was shown at the Montreal International Film Festival in 2004. Katz

and Bittencourt also worked together on the film *Kiki Smith: Squatting the Palace*, which was presented at many festivals and screened at the Film Forum in New York City in 2007.

Katz curated a museum exhibition on Black Mountain College and edited the exhibition catalogue *Black Mountain College: Experiment in Art* (2002, 2013). His poetry and art criticism have appeared widely, and he has taught at the School of Visual Arts, Naropa University, the University of Campinas, and the Poetry Project.

Katz is a critic at the Yale School of Art. He lives in New York City, where he curates the Readings in Contemporary Poetry series at Dia Art Foundation.

Bio: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems-and-poets/poets/detail/vincent-katz>

PROGRAM #: PN 17-20
RELEASE DATE: Monday, November 6, 2017

Hoa Nguyen - “Cold Sore Lip Red Coat”

Hoa Nguyen considers the objects of jokes and humor.

Hoa Nguyen

Hoa Nguyen is the author of five books and more than a dozen chapbooks, including *Violet Engery Ingots* (Wave Books, 2016), *Tells of the Crackling* (Ugly Duckling Presse, 2015), *Red Juice: Poems 1998-2008* (Wave Books, 2014), and *As Long As Trees Last* (Wave Books, 2012). With her husband, the poet Dale Smith, she founded the small press and journal *Skanky Possum*.

Nguyen has taught at Miami University and Bard College. She lives in Toronto where she teaches poetics in a private workshop and at Ryerson University.

Bio: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems-and-poets/poets/detail/hoa-nguyen>

PROGRAM #: PN 17-21
RELEASE DATE: Monday, November 13, 2017

Tyehimba Jess - “Sissieretta Jones”

Tyehimba Jess pays tribute to Sissieretta Jones, the first African-American to perform at Carnegie Hall in 1892.

Tyehimba Jess

Born in Detroit, poet Tyehimba Jess earned his BA from the University of Chicago and his MFA from New York University. He is the author of *leadbelly* (2005) and *Olio* (2016), winner of the Pulitzer Prize.

Jess is the rare poet who bridges slam and academic poetry. His first collection, *leadbelly* (2005), an exploration of the blues musician Huddie “Lead Belly” Ledbetter’s life, was chosen for the National Poetry Series by Brigit Pegeen Kelly, and was voted one of the top three poetry books of the year by *Black Issues Book Review*. A reviewer for Publishers Weekly noted that “the collection’s strength lies in its contradictory forms; from biography to lyric to hard-driving prose poem, boast to song, all are soaked in the rhythm and dialect of Southern blues and the demands of honoring one’s talent.” Jess's second book *Olio* (2016) received the Pulitzer Prize.

A two-time member of the Chicago Green Mill Slam team, Jess was also Chicago’s Poetry Ambassador to Accra, Ghana. His work has been featured in numerous anthologies, including *Soulfires: Young Black Men in Love and Violence* (1996), *Slam: The Competitive Art of Performance Poetry* (2000) and *Dark Matter 2: Reading the Bones* (2004). He is the author of *African American Pride: Celebrating Our Achievements, Contributions, and Enduring Legacy* (2003).

His honors include a Pulitzer Prize, a Whiting Writers’ Award, a Chicago Sun-Times Poetry Award, and a Gwendolyn Brooks Open Mic Poetry Award. A former artist-in-residence with Cave Canem, Jess has been awarded fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Illinois Arts Council, and the Fine Arts Work Center at Provincetown, as well as a Lannan Writing Residency.

Jess has taught at the Juilliard School, the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and at the College of Staten Island in New York City.

Bio: <http://www.poetryfoundation.org/bio/tyehimba-jess>

PROGRAM #: PN 17-22
RELEASE DATE: Monday, November 20, 2017

Julien Poirier - “Imaginary Book”

Julien Poirier navigates the line between what can be imagined and what is real.

Julien Poirier

Poet Julien Poirier grew up in the San Francisco Bay area and was educated at Columbia University. He has described his poems as a system or a conversation already in progress, aligning observed and spoken ephemera with sound echoes, tracing the movement of a restless mind across themes of politics, poetics, and daily life. In an article on reading Poirier for *EOAGH: A Journal of the Arts*, poet Filip Marinovich stated, “Poirier is a Genius in the classical sense: a resident spirit of Poetry, arcangelizing words through the top of one’s lifted head. . . .” In a 2013 interview with Noel Black for *BOMB Magazine*, Poirier offered the following: “It’s exciting to be writing poems now . . . because if you can plunge into the simultaneity of all of these events that warped you in some way, drove you crazy or forced you to find some narrow streak of optimism in the evident relentless disaster, then you might, as a poet, be able to get deeper and deeper into an understanding of what’s happening. You might be able to understand the way things work together and make a poem map, ‘a map to the map’ as my friend Tony said,

before you forget. And it's incredibly exciting because there are about a million ways to go about doing this."

Poirier is the author of the full-length poetry collection *El Golpe Chileno* (2010); several chapbooks, including *Flying Over the Fence with Amadou Diallo* (2000), *Short Stack* (2005), and *Stained Glass Windows of California* (2012); and the formally innovative newspaper novel *Living! Go and Dream* (2005).

A founding member of Ugly Duckling Presse Collective, Poirier edited the *New York Nights* newspaper from 2001 to 2006. He has taught poetry in New York City public schools and at San Quentin State Prison. He lives in Berkeley with his wife and two daughters.

In April 2014, Julien Poirier was a featured writer for *Harriet*.

Bio: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems-and-poets/poets/detail/julien-poirier>

PROGRAM #: PN 17-23
RELEASE DATE: Monday, November 27, 2017

Joshua Edwards - "The Lamp of Mutual Aid"

Joshua Edwards mediates on the nature of work and communal living.

Joshua Edwards

Poet, translator, and editor Joshua Edwards was born in Galveston, Texas. He earned his MFA from the University of Michigan. His collections of poetry include *Campeche* (2011), which includes photographs taken by his father, the photographer Van Edwards; *Imperial Nostalgias* (2013); and *Architecture for Travelers* (2014). He is also the author of a photobook, *Photographs Taken at One-Hour Intervals During a Walk from Galveston Island to the West Texas Town of Marfa*, and his translation of Mexican poet María Baranda's *Ficticia* (2010) was nominated for a Northern California Book Award.

Edwards is director and coeditor of Canarium Books, a small press devoted to publishing innovative poetry and translations. He was a Fulbright grantee, a Wallace Stegner fellow at Stanford University, and he received a fellowship from the Akademie Schloss Solitude. When not traveling, he lives with his wife, the poet Lynn Xu, in Marfa, Texas.

Bio: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems-and-poets/poets/detail/joshua-edwards>

PROGRAM #: PN 17-24
RELEASE DATE: Monday, December 4, 2017

Sueyeun Juliette Lee - "after noise"

Sueyeun Juliette Lee mediates on loss and its aftermath.

Sueyeun Juliette Lee

Korean American poet Sueyeun Juliette Lee grew up in Virginia. She earned a BA from the University of Virginia and an MFA from the University of Massachusetts–Amherst and studied for a PhD at Temple University. Lee is the author of *That Gorgeous Feeling* (2008), *Underground National* (2010), *Solar Maximum* (2015), and *No Comet, That Serpent in the Sky Means Noise* (2017) among other books. Her writing focuses on birthright, homeland, and identity. In an interview for *Entropy* magazine, Lee said, “To write and read a poem is to potentially shake loose the drapes over the machinery, to assist in sensitizing new reading and mindfulness habits that can allow us to see otherwise or through. ... Those who take on poetry as their primary means for engaging the world are choosing to take on this central conundrum of sign, affect, and perception that shapes the consensual reality we inhabit.”

Lee has held fellowships with the Pew Center for Arts & Heritage, Kunstnarhuset Messen, Hafnarborg, and the UCross Foundation. In 2006, she founded Corollary Press, which publishes chapbooks of multi-ethnic writing. Her work has appeared in the *Constant Critic*, *Jacket2*, *EOAGH*, and elsewhere. She lives in Denver, Colorado.

Bio: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems-and-poets/poets/detail/sueyeun-juliette-lee>

PROGRAM #: PN 17-25

RELEASE DATE: Monday, December 11, 2017

Uche Nduka - “With a Swoop”

Uche Nduka expresses a sense of anguish and offers possible spiritual solutions to current political and existential problems.

Uche Nduka

Uche Nduka was born in Nigeria to a Christian family. Raised bilingual in Igbo and English, he earned his BA from the University of Nigeria and his MFA from Long Island University, Brooklyn. He left Nigeria in 1994 and settled in Germany after winning a fellowship from the Goethe Institute. He lived in Germany and Holland for the next decade and immigrated to the United States in 2007. Nduka is the author of numerous collections of poetry and prose, including *Nine East* (2013), *Ijele* (2012), and *eel on reef* (2007), all of which were published after he arrived in the United States. Earlier collections include *Heart’s Field* (2005); *If Only the Night* (2002); *Chiaroscuro* (1997), which won the Association of Nigerian Authors Poetry Prize; *The Bremen Poems* (1995); *Second Act* (1994); and *Flower Child* (1988). *Belltime Letters* (2000) is a collection of prose.

Nduka’s work is notable for its surrealist energy and political urgency. According to Joyelle McSweeney: “To my reading, all of Nduka’s work is Surreal, and in this sense it is all political. The real is not paraphrased or commented on by Surrealism but convulses through it. The real in Nduka’s work carries the resonance not only of his Nigerian identity and experience of political violence but also the dislocation of the émigré and the frightening power relations of intimacy as mapped onto the lyric.” Nduka himself has said, “So far I just like doing my own thing and not buying into the hype of either formal or informal English; traditional or avant-garde usages. I

enact a language style that suits my mood and the subjects I am interested in. Linguistically it seems there are a lot of trenches that have not been explored in poems/poetry. I keep attempting to investigate them. I don't want to feel like people expect me to write in English timidly." Nduka currently lives in Brooklyn.

Bio: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems-and-poets/poets/detail/uche-nduka>

PROGRAM #: PN 17-26

RELEASE DATE: Monday, December 18, 2017

Jennifer Foerster - "The Other Side"

Jennifer Foerster imagines encountering her younger self on a walk through the streets of Vienna.

Jennifer Foerster

Poet Jennifer Elise Foerster is of German, Dutch, and Muscogee descent and is a member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma. She earned a BFA from the Institute of American Indian Arts and an MFA from Vermont College of Fine Arts. She is the author of the poetry collection *Leaving Tulsa* (2013), and her poems have been anthologized in *Sing: Poetry from the Indigenous Americas* (2011), *New California Writing 2011* (2011), and *Turtle Island to Abaya Yala* (2011). A former Wallace Stegner Fellow, Foerster has received fellowships from Soul Mountain Retreat, the Naropa Summer Writing Program, the Idyllwild Summer Poetry Program, Dorland Mountain Arts Colony, and the Vermont Studio Center. She lives in San Francisco.

Bio: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems-and-poets/poets/detail/jennifer-elise-foerster>