

POETRYNOW WITH THE POETRY FOUNDATION

Broadcast Schedule – Winter 2018

PROGRAM #: PN 17-27
RELEASE DATE: December 25, 2017

Brenda Coultas - “An After Hour”

Brenda Coultas describes the act of writing as it unfolds during the course of a day.

Brenda Coultas

Brenda Coultas is the author of the poetry collections *A Journal of Places* (online, Metambesen Press, 2015), *The Tatters* (Wesleyan University Press, 2014), *The Marvelous Bones of Time* (Coffee House Press, 2007), and *A Handmade Museum* (Coffee House Press, 2003). Her poetry can be found in anthologies, including *Readings in Contemporary Poetry: An Anthology* (2017), *What is Poetry (Just Kidding, I Know You Know): Interviews from the Poetry Project Newsletter (1983-2009)* (2017), and *Symmetries: Three Years of Art and Poetry at Dominique Levy* (2017).

Bio: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/brenda-coultas>

PROGRAM #: PN 17-28
RELEASE DATE: January 1, 2018

Marie Buck - “Relaxing or Voluntarily Having Dumb, Unpleasant Experiences”

Marie Buck describes relaxing activities many people like to do, and one rather unpleasant one.

Marie Buck

Marie Buck is the author of three collections of poetry: *Life & Style* (Patrick Lovelace Editions, 2009), *Portrait of Doom* (Krupskaya, 2015), and *Goodnight, Marie, May God Have Mercy on Your Soul* (Roof, 2017). She also recently completed a dissertation, *Weird Propaganda: Texts of the Black Power and Women’s Liberation Movements*. She is managing editor of the journal *Social Text*, where she also curates the online poetry and fiction sections.

Bio: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/marie-buck>

PROGRAM #: PN17-29
RELEASE DATE: January 8, 2018

Matthew Zapruder - “Graduation Day”

Matthew Zapruder dedicates a graduation address to poet and fiction writer Denis Johnson who died in May, 2017.

Matthew Zapruder

Poet and editor Matthew Zapruder was born in Washington, DC. He earned a BA in Russian literature at Amherst College, an MA in Slavic languages and literature at the University of California, Berkeley, and an MFA in poetry at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Zapruder's poems employ nuanced, conversational syntax to engage themes of grief, perception, and logic. As Dana Jennings noted in the *New York Times*, Zapruder has a "razor eye for the remnants and revenants of modern culture." Discussing his own development as a writer in the *Los Angeles Times*, Zapruder addressed the role of rhyme in his work: "[T]he rhyme is what I would call 'conceptual,' that is, not made of sounds, but of ideas that accomplish what the sounds do in formal poetry: to connect elements that one wouldn't have expected, and to make the reader or listener, even if just for a moment, feel the complexity and disorder of life, and at the same time what [Wallace Stevens](#) called the 'obscurity of an order, a whole.'"

Zapruder is the author of several collections of poetry, including *Sun Bear* (2014), *Come On All You Ghosts* (2010), *The Pajamaist* (2006), and *American Linden* (2002). He collaborated with painter Chris Uphues on *For You in Full Bloom* (2009) and cotranslated, with historian Radu Ioanid, Romanian poet Eugen Jebeleanu's last collection, *Secret Weapon: Selected Late Poems* (2008).

With Brian Henry, Zapruder cofounded Verse Press, which later became Wave Books. As an editor for Wave Books, Zapruder coedited, with [Joshua Beckman](#), the political poetry anthology *State of the Union: 50 Political Poems* (2008). His own poems have been included in the anthologies *Best American Poetry* (2013, 2009), *Third Rail: The Poetry of Rock and Roll* (2007), and *Legitimate Dangers: American Poets of the New Century* (2006), as well as *Poets on Teaching: A Sourcebook* (2010). *Why Poetry*, a book of prose about reading poetry for a general audience, is forthcoming from Ecco/Harper Collins in early 2017.

Zapruder's poetry has been adapted by some of America's most exciting young composers. In Fall, 2012, his poetry was adapted and performed at Carnegie Hall by Composer Gabriel Kahane and Brooklyn Rider. In February, 2014, composer Missy Mazzoli, along with Victoire and Glenn Kotche, performed *Vespers for a New Dark Age*, a piece commissioned by Carnegie Hall for the 2014 Ecstatic Music Festival, and released as a recording on New Amsterdam records in spring, 2015.

Zapruder's honors include a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Lannan Foundation Residency Fellowship, the William Carlos Williams Award from the Poetry Society of America, and the May Sarton Prize from the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He has taught at New York University, the New School, the University of California Riverside - Palm Desert Low Residency MFA Program, the University of Massachusetts, Amherst's Juniper Summer Writing Institute, and at the University of California at Berkeley as the Holloway Fellow.

He lives in Oakland, where he is an associate professor in the Saint Mary's College of California MFA Program in Creative Writing, as well as editor at large for Wave Books. He is also a guitarist in the rock band The Figments.

Bio: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/matthew-zapruder>

PROGRAM #: PN 17-30
RELEASE DATE: January 15, 2018

Ben Fama - “Picking up Your Spilled Pills off the Floor Is Briefly Humbling”

Ben Fama mediates on the loss of a job and the world view of corporate America.

Ben Fama

Ben Fama is a writer based in New York City. He is the author of *Fantasy* (Ugly Duckling Presse, 2015), and the chapbooks *Odalisque* (Bloof, 2014), *Cool Memories* (Spork, 2013), *New Waves* (Minutes Books, 2011), and *Aquarius Rising* (Ugly Duckling Presse 2010). He is also the author of the artist book *Mall Witch* (Wonder, 2012). He is the co-founder of Wonder.

Bio: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/ben-fama>

PROGRAM #: PN 17-31
RELEASE DATE: January 22, 2018

Eleni Sikelianos - “Your Kingdom”

Eleni Sikelianos explores the evolution of the human body.

Eleni Sikelianos

Eleni Sikelianos was born and raised in California and earned her MFA from the Naropa Institute. She is the great-granddaughter of Greek poet Angelos Sikelianos and the niece of Anne Waldman. She is the author of eight poetry collections, including *Make Yourself Happy* (2017), *The Loving Detail of the Living & the Dead* (2013), *Body Clock* (2008), and *The California Poem* (2004). She is also author of the hybrid memoirs *You Animal Machine (The Golden Greek)* (2014) and *The Book of Jon* (2004).

Sikelianos work negotiates the boundary between poetry and prose and other forms of documentation, including visual art and notebook writing. Speaking to reviewer Ann Beman about *You Animal Machine*, which explores the history of Sikelianos’s grandmother, a former burlesque dancer, through found and imagined materials, Sikelianos articulated her relationship to form and hybrid projects: by being “conscious of the way our vision is blocked,” Sikelianos stated, she is “more interested in the ways we don’t see, in blindness, rather than in what we do. ... The shifting forms are a way to see around corners.”

Sikelianos has received numerous honors and awards for her writing and translations, including fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Fulbright Commission, and Princeton University, where she was a Seeger fellow. She has held residencies at Yaddo, the Lannan Foundation in Marfa, and La Maison des Écrivains Étrangers in Brittany and is the recipient of two Gertrude Stein Awards for Innovative American Writing, a New York Foundation for the Arts Award in Nonfiction Literature, a James D. Phelan Award, and a New York State Council for the Arts Translation Award. On guest faculty at the Naropa Summer Writing Program, she teaches in the Literary Arts Program at Brown University and lives with her husband, the novelist Laird Hunt.

Bio: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/eleni-sikelianos>

PROGRAM #: PN 17-32

RELEASE DATE: January 29, 2018

Joanna Klink - "Elegy"

Joanna Klink meditates on personal loss.

Joanna Klink

Joanna Klink earned an MFA from the Iowa Writer's Workshop. Her collections of poetry include *They Are Sleeping* (2000), *Circadian* (2007), *Raptus* (2010) and *Excerpts from a Secret Prophecy* (2015). Her work has been included in numerous anthologies, most recently *Resistance, Rebellion, Life: 50 Poems Now* (2017) and *The Penguin Anthology of 20th Century American Poetry* (2011). Of her work, Klink has said: "In poems I am trying to find my bearings through a world that at times feels remote and inchoate and struck blank with noise. I would like to place myself in a field of deep attention, and out of that attention come to feel and regard with more acute understanding what is there. I write to be less hopelessly myself, to sense something more expansive than where I speak from."

Klink has received awards and fellowships from The Rona Jaffe Foundation, Jeannette Haien Ballard, Civitella Ranieri, The Bogliasco Foundation, The American Academy of Arts and Letters, and the Trust of Amy Lowell. She was the Briggs-Copeland Poet at Harvard University and teaches in the Creative Writing Program at The University of Montana.

Bio: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/joanna-klink>

PROGRAM #: PN 17-33

RELEASE DATE: February 5, 2018

David Shook - "Let Me Explain"

David Shook responds to a poem by Pablo Neruda with his own poem set in present-day Middle East.

David Shook

Poet, translator, and filmmaker David Shook was raised in Mexico City. He earned a BA at the University of Oklahoma and an MSt at Oxford University. In his debut collection, *Our Obsidian Tongues* (2013), Shook explores the violence and hunger of everyday life, steeping his poems in lush imagery and sensory detail.

His translations include Mario Bellatin's *Shiki Nagaoka: A Nose for Fiction* (2012), Oswald de Andrade's *Cannibal Manifesto* (2011), and Robert Bolaño's "Leave Everything, Again," a manifesto appended to his novel *The Savage Detectives* (2008, translated by Natasha Wimmer). Shook's short documentary film, *Kilometer Zero*, records the poetry of Equatorial Guinean poet Marcelo Ensema Nsang. Shook has also collaborated with cartoonist Tom Neely, filmmaker Ben Rodkin, book artist Laura Peters, and musician Adrian Wong. In 2013, Shook began to raise funds for a Poetry Drone, which would deploy poems printed on biodegradable, seed-embedded papers over populated areas.

He has served as the editor of *Molossus* and *Phoneme Media* and as a contributing editor to *World Literature Today* and *Ambit*. His honors include a Pushcart Prize nomination and an English PEN Translation Residency for Poetry Parnassus. Shook lives in Los Angeles.

Bio: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/david-shook>

PROGRAM #: PN 17-34
RELEASE DATE: February 12, 2018

Jennifer Firestone - “The Demon”

Jennifer Firestone recounts the state of dementia in a loved one.

Jennifer Firestone

Jennifer Firestone's books include *TEN* (BlazeVOX, forthcoming 2018), *Gates & Fields* (Belladonna*), *Swimming Pool* (DoubleCross), *Flashes* (Shearsman), *Holiday* (Shearsman), *Waves* (Portable Press at Yo-Yo Labs), *from Flashes* and *snapshot* (Sona Books), and *Fanimaly* (Dusie). She coedited *Letters To Poets: Conversations about Poetics, Politics and Community* (Saturnalia, 2008). Firestone's work has been anthologized in *Kindergarde: Avant-Garde Poems, Plays, Songs, & Stories for Children* (2013) and in *Building is a Process / Light is an Element: Essays and Excursions for Myung Mi Kim* (2008). She won the 2014 Marsh Hawk Press' Robert Creeley Memorial Prize, and she is an assistant professor at the New School's Eugene Lang College.

Bio: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/jennifer-firestone>

PROGRAM #: PN 17-35
RELEASE DATE: February 19, 2018

Harmony Holiday – “What Jimmy Taught Me”

Harmony Holiday meditates on her biracial heritage and the legacy of her parents.

Harmony Holiday

Born in Waterloo, Iowa, poet and choreographer Harmony Holiday is the daughter of Northern Soul singer/songwriter Jimmy Holiday. Her father died when she was five, and she and her mother moved to Los Angeles. Holiday was educated at the University of California, Berkeley and at Columbia University. Her debut collection of poems, *Negro League Baseball* (2011), won the Fence Books Motherwell Prize. *Go Find your Father/A Famous Blues*, a “dos-a-dos” book featuring poetry, letters and essays, is due out from Ricochet Editions in late 2013.

Holiday's work tests the limits of language and memory, pushing at the elasticity of both poems and prose. As a reviewer for Publishers Weekly noted of *Negro League Baseball*, “Chaotic and mesmerizing, with sex, violence, music, history and semantics moving at breakneck speed, Holiday's debut is a rare event: in prose poems and in isolated lines, her long unruly sentences take in a mother's funeral, a tumultuous love affair, Mississippi family roots, Northern branches, and the partly improvised, often confrontational styles of advanced African-American music

from be-bop and post-bop to hip-hop and whatever lies beyond.” Holiday lives in New York City.

Bio: <http://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems-and-poets/poets/detail/harmony-holiday>

PROGRAM #: PN 17-36
RELEASE DATE: February 26, 2018

Emily Skillings - “No People in It”

Emily Skillings writes a tribute to poet John Ashbery who died in September of 2017.

Emily Skillings

Emily Skillings is the author of *Fort Not* (The Song Cave, 2017). She is a member of the Belladonna* Collaborative and splits her time between Brooklyn and Hudson, New York.

Bio: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/emily-skillings>

PROGRAM #: PN 17-37
RELEASE DATE: March 5, 2018

Kit Robinson - “The Thin Man Goes Home”

Kit Robinson describes a walk home on a summer night as a cinematic experience.

Kit Robinson

San Francisco Bay Area poet Kit Robinson was born in Evanston, Illinois, and earned a BA at Yale University. He is the author of more than a dozen collections of poetry, including *Determination* (2010), *The Crave* (2002), and *The Dolch Stanzas* (1976). A collaborator on *The Grand Piano: An Experiment in Collective Autobiography, San Francisco 1975–1980*, Robinson worked with poet [Lyn Hejinian](#) throughout the 1970s and '80s to produce *In the American Tree: New Writing by Poets*, a weekly Bay Area radio show of interviews and readings. Robinson has also performed with the San Francisco Poets Theater.

In his work, Robinson frequently uses sound to explore the process of creating meaning from daily life and thought. Reviewing Robinson’s selected poems, *The Messianic Trees* (2009), in *Rain Taxi Review of Books*, poet Tyrone Williams observed, “From the beginning of his career Robinson has relentlessly poked at the membrane between sense and senselessness, form and chaos, not in order to puncture it but rather to send ripples throughout its structure.”

Robinson’s many honors include a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts, an award from the Fund for Poetry, and a fellowship from the California Arts Council. Robinson lives in Berkeley, where he works as a freelance writer and marketing consultant and plays Cuban tres guitar in the band Bahia Son.

Bio: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/kit-robinson-56d2070387548>

PROGRAM #: PN 17-38
RELEASE DATE: March 12, 2018

Vi Khi Nao - “Man in Boat, 1998”

Vi Khi Nao’s poem inhabits the scene of a painting composed in 1998.

Vi Khi Nao

Vi Khi Nao won the 2014 Nightboat Poetry Prize for her poetry collection *The Old Philosopher*. Coffee House Press just published her novel *Fish in Exile*.

Bio: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/vi-khi-nao>

PROGRAM #: PN 17-39
RELEASE DATE: March 19, 2018

Johannes Göransson - “[I have become wealthy in a foreign land]”

Johannes Göransson catalogs his summer travels through Berlin and Stockholm.

Johannes Göransson

Poet and translator Johannes Göransson emigrated with his family from Skåne, Sweden to the United States at age 13. He earned a BA from the University of Minnesota, an MFA from the Iowa Writers’ Workshop, and his PhD from the University of Georgia. He is the author of several books, including *Haute Surveillance* (2013), *Entrance to a colonial pageant in which we all begin to intricate* (2011), and *Dear Ra (A Story in Flinches)* (2008). He has translated Aase Berg’s *Dark Matter* (2012), *Transfer Fat* (2012), and *Remainland: Selected Poems of Aase Berg* (2005) as well as Henry Parland’s *Ideals Clearance* (2007).

Göransson’s critical and creative work explores genre, aesthetics, and the limits of the autonomous text. He has written on subjects ranging from gurlisque poetry to Sylvia Plath to translation theory. In an interview with *3AM Magazine*, Göransson noted that when he writes, he starts from a “micro-level,” adding, “I have a sensation or sentence in mind and then I try to exhaust everything using that kernel (and with everything I primarily mean myself, but also our entire culture, it’s a futile idea no doubt).” Less than “innovative” poetry, he noted, “I’m far more interested in the degraded and anachronistic, the trashy and the melancholic. Even ‘the poetic.’”

With his wife, poet Joyelle McSweeney, Göransson coedits Action Books, and with John Woods he publishes the online journal *Action, Yes*. He is an assistant professor at the University of Notre Dame.

In August 2013, Göransson was a [featured writer](#) for *Harriet*.

Bio: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/search?query=Johannes+Göransson>