

THE *Adroit*
JOURNAL

**SUMMER
MENTORSHIP
PROGRAM**

2017

**INFORMATION
BOOKLET**

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ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Now in its fifth year, [The Adroit Journal's Summer Mentorship Program](#) is an [entirely free and entirely online program](#) that pairs experienced writers with high school and secondary students interested in learning more about the creative writing processes of drafting, redrafting and editing. The 2017 program will cater to the literary genres of [poetry, fiction, and nonfiction](#). The aim of the mentorship program is not formalized instruction, but rather an individualized, flexible, and often informal correspondence. Poetry mentorship students will share weekly work with mentors and peers, while prose mentorship students will share biweekly work with mentors and peers.

We are very proud of our alumni from this program. Previous students have subsequently been recognized through the [National YoungArts Foundation & United States Presidential Scholar in the Arts designation](#), the [National Scholastic Art & Writing Awards](#), and the [Foyle Young Poet of the Year Awards](#), among a plethora of others. Click [here](#) to view the mentorship alumni college list.

The program will last from [June 25, 2017](#) until [August 5, 2017](#), and will be capped at sixty-six students. Students must have access to the Internet for the duration of the program, and must be able to complete all weekly writing and peer-reviewing activities.

Please note that this opportunity will not offer academic credit (this is a friendship, not a class!), and that participation in the workshop is not a route to publication in the journal.

Questions?

Visit us online: www.theadroitjournal.org/mentorship

Say hello: editors@theadroitjournal.org

APPLICATION DETAILS

The 2017 Adroit Journal Summer Mentorship Program will evaluate student applications on a [rolling basis](#) via [our submission manager](#). Please note that [applications for this year's program will be accepted from March 16, 2017 until seats are filled](#) or until April 7, 2017, whichever comes first. Therefore, applications received earlier in the window are more likely to receive strong consideration.

Applications for this year's mentorship program consist of two mandatory parts—a [Writer's Statement](#) and a [Writing Sample](#).

The [Writer's Statement](#) should detail the applicant's specific interest in pursuing the Adroit Journal Summer Mentorship Program. What is it about our program and mission that piques your interest? Why this workshop? How would you spend your time with us? We want to know. Aim for between 1-1.5 pages double spaced, and don't be afraid to be creative and original. We like that.

While we of course suggest mentioning your experience and accomplishment with the writing and workshop processes, we will evaluate applications looking primarily for demonstrated passion and interest. We'd also like to suggest that you review the mission, ambition, and content of the journal for inspiration, if you find yourself stuck.

The [Writing Sample](#) should consist of between four and five poems or between eight and ten pages of fiction or nonfiction (excerpts acceptable).

If you wish to do so, you may also upload an [Academic Transcript](#) to supplement your application.

Please see next page for additional application guidelines.

APPLICATION DETAILS

Students who wish to apply to multiple genres may do so by utilizing both the First Choice and Second Choice options in the mentorship application form linked below. Important: If you wish to apply to more than one genre, please include two complete writing samples, one for each genre, with your second-choice genre following your first.

Each year, students ask for tips. Here's the biggest one we can give: in the statement, tell us why you want to spend your summer in this program, rather than simply in a summer program writing or reading or editing. Again, why ours? As always, the more specifics, the better.

Applicants should possess firm work ethic and some familiarity with the writing and workshop process, and should be comfortable with receiving (and giving) commentary and critique. Applicants should also possess the will to explore and improve! At the end of the day, we are looking for the best potential: the writers with the drive to explore and discuss, the courage to delete and leap, and the determination to apply what they discover to future work.

Please direct any additional questions to the editors at editors@theadroitjournal.org.

Click [here](#) to apply to the 2017 Adroit Journal Summer Mentorship Program.

PROGRAM STAFF

CARLY JOY MILLER

Carly Joy Miller is the Adroit Journal Summer Mentorship Program's 2017 Program Director. Her work has appeared or is forthcoming in *The Adroit Journal*, *Blackbird*, *Boston Review*, *Gulf Coast*, *Meridian*, *Third Coast*, and elsewhere. She has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize and was a finalist for the Bucknell University Stadler Fellowship. She is a contributing editor for *Poetry International* and a founding editor of *Locked Horn Press*. She was also the former assistant managing editor for *The Los Angeles Review*, where she continues contributing as a Poetry Reader.



PROGRAM STAFF



CHRISTINA IM

Christina Im is a Korean-American writer and high school student from Portland, Oregon. She was named a 2017 Finalist in Writing (Poetry) by the National YoungArts Foundation. In addition, her work has been recognized by Hollins University, Princeton University, the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers, and the Adroit Prizes for Poetry & Prose. Her fiction and poetry have appeared in *The Adroit Journal*, *Words Dance*, *Strange Horizons*, and *The Blueshift Journal*, among others. Christina studied poetry with Aline Dolinh in the 2015 Adroit Journal Summer Mentorship Program, and will serve as the 2017 On-Call Peer Reviewer for Poetry.



JESSICA LI

Jessica Li is a freshman at the University of Pennsylvania from New Jersey. Her fiction and poetry have been recognized by the Bennington College Young Writers Awards, the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, the Eichner Awards for Young Poets, and the Adroit Prizes for Poetry & Prose, among others. Jessica studied fiction with Elizabeth Ballou in the 2014 Adroit Journal Summer Mentorship Program, and will serve as the 2017 On-Call Peer Reviewer for Prose.

MENTORS

Poetry Mentors

Kenzie Allen
Eloisa Amezcua
Gabrielle Bates
Alyse Bensel
Marci Calabretta Cancio-Bello
Chen Chen
Emily Rose Cole
Katie Condon
Meg Day
Trista Edwards
Cody Ernst
Matthew Gellman
Kimberly Grabowski Strayer
J.P. Grasser
Benjamin Gucciardi
Kamden Hilliard
Theophilus Kwek
Peter LaBerge
Keegan Lester
Paige Lewis
Lo Kwa Mei-en
Bern Mulvey
Jessica Poli
Doug Ramspeck
Julian Randall
Nancy Reddy
Leslie Sainz
Analia Sotelo
Brian Tierney
Shelley Wong

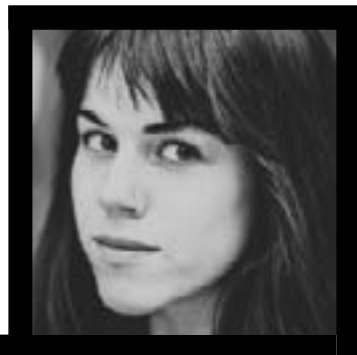
Fiction Mentors

Garrett Biggs
Eric Blix
Laura Citino
Katherine Ann Davis
Dana Diehl
Kris Faatz
Andrew Gretes
Ben Hoffman
Maria Pinto
Anthony Veasna So
Glenn Stowell
Oriana Tang
Graham Todd
Cady Vishniac

Nonfiction Mentor

Caroline Crew

MENTORS



KENZIE ALLEN

Kenzie Allen is a descendant of the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin. She is a currently a first-year PhD in English at the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee, and she received her MFA from the Helen Zell Writers' Program at the University of Michigan. Kenzie's work has appeared in *Narrative*, *The Iowa Review*, *Drunken Boat*, *Boston Review*, *Apogee*, *SOFTBLOW*, and other venues, and she is the managing editor of the *Anthropoid* collective. She was born in West Texas, has lived in Norway and New York, and tumbleweeds around with frequency.



ELOISA AMEZCUA

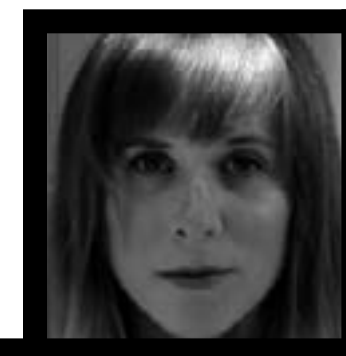
Eloisa Amezcua is an Arizona native. Her poetry and translations are published or forthcoming from *Poetry*, *The Journal*, *Cherry Tree*, and others. She is the author of three chapbooks including *Symptoms of Teething*, winner of the 2016 Vella Chapbook Prize from Paper Nautilus Press and *Mexicamericana*, forthcoming from Pork Belly Press. Eloisa is the founder and editor of *The Shallow Ends: A Journal of Poetry*.

MENTORS



GABRIELLE BATES

Gabrielle Bates is a writer and visual artist from Birmingham currently living in Seattle, where she works at Open Books: A Poem Emporium and serves on the editorial board of the *Seattle Review*, *Poetry Northwest*, and Broadside Press. Her work appears in *Poetry*, *Best of the Net*, the *Missouri Review*, *Black Warrior Review*, *Passages North*, the *Adroit Journal*, *Mid-American Review*, *Southern Humanities Review*, *New South*, and *Guernica*, among other journals. She is the recipient of fellowships and scholarships from the Bread Loaf Writers Conference, Hugo House, and the University of Washington.



ALYSE BENSEL

Alyse Bense's poems have most recently appeared or are forthcoming in *The Adroit Journal*, *Tinderbox Poetry Journal*, *Quarterly West*, *New South*, *Bone Bouquet*, and elsewhere. She is the author of the poetry chapbooks *Not of Their Own Making* (dancing girl press) and *Shift* (Plan B Press) and serves as the Book Reviews Editor at *The Los Angeles Review*. A PhD candidate in creative writing at the University of Kansas, she lives in Lawrence.

MENTORS



GARRETT BIGGS

Garrett Biggs grew up in the San Francisco bay area. His most recent prose is published in or forthcoming from *CutBank*, *Nashville Review*, *Necessary Fiction*, *Paper Darts*, and *New South*, among other fine journals. His work for the stage has been workshopped and performed in Johnson-McFarlane Studios in Denver, Colorado. He is a senior at the University of Denver with his BA in Creative Writing, and serves as the Managing Editor of *The Adroit Journal*.



ERIC BLIX

Eric Lloyd Blix is the author of the story collection, *Physically Alarming Men* (forthcoming from Stephen F. Austin State University Press). His writing has appeared in such journals as *Western Humanities Review*, *Caketrain*, *The Pinch*, and others. His work has been supported by the Sundress Academy for the Arts and was recently nominated for a Pushcart Prize. Born and raised in Minnesota, he currently lives in Salt Lake City, where he studies in the PhD program in creative writing at the University of Utah.

MENTORS



MARCI CALABRETTA CANCIO-BELLO

Marci Calabretta Cancio-Bello is the author of *Hour of the Ox* (University of Pittsburgh, 2016), which won the 2015 AWP Donald Hall Prize for Poetry and the 2016 Florida Book Award Bronze Medal for Poetry. She has received poetry fellowships from Kundiman and the Knight Foundation, and her work has appeared in *The Adroit Journal*, *Best New Poets 2015*, *The Georgia Review*, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *Narrative Magazine*, and more. She serves as a program coordinator for Miami Book Fair and producer for The Working Poet Radio Show. www.marcicalabretta.com.



CHEN CHEN

Chen Chen is the author of *When I Grow Up I Want to Be a List of Further Possibilities*, winner of the A. Poulin, Jr. Poetry Prize, available from BOA Editions. Chen's work has appeared in *Poetry*, *The New York Times*, *Buzzfeed*, the *PBS Newshour*, and *The Best American Poetry*. A Kundiman and Lambda Literary Fellow, he is pursuing a PhD in English and Creative Writing at Texas Tech University.

MENTORS



LAURA CITINO

Laura Citino is a fiction writer and essayist from southeastern Michigan. In 2013 she received her MFA in fiction from Eastern Washington University, where she was also Fiction Editor for *Willow Springs*. Her work has appeared *Passages North*, *cream city review*, *Sou'wester*, *Gigantic Sequins*, *Pembroke*, *Blue Earth Review*, and others. She currently teaches in a program for academically talented youth and serves as Managing Editor for *Sundog Lit*. She lives in Kalamazoo, MI.



EMILY ROSE COLE

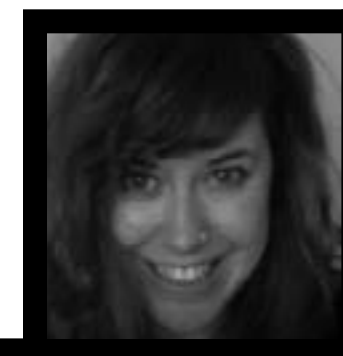
Emily Rose Cole is the author of a chapbook, *Love and a Loaded Gun*, forthcoming from Minerva Rising Press. She has received awards from *Jabberwock Review*, *Ruminate Magazine*, and the Academy of American Poets, and her poetry has appeared or is forthcoming in *Nimrod*, *Spoon River Poetry Review*, *The Pinch*, and *Southern Indiana Review*, among others. She hails from Pennsylvania, holds an MFA from Southern Illinois University Carbondale, and is currently a PhD student at the University of Cincinnati.

MENTORS



KATIE CONDON

Katie Condon has received fellowships from the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference and Inprint. Her recent poems appear in or are forthcoming from *Narrative*, *Adroit Journal*, *Indiana Review*, *Four Way Review*, and elsewhere, as well as the anthology *Hallelujah for 50ft Women*. Katie received her MFA from the University of Houston, and is currently a PhD candidate in Literature and Creative Writing at the University of Tennessee, where she serves as a Poetry Editor for *Grist Journal*.

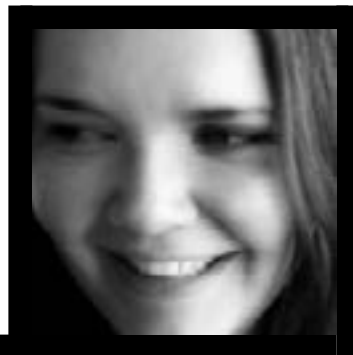


CAROLINE CREW

Caroline Crew is a writer and editor. She has written several chapbooks, and her full length poetry collection, *PINK MUSEUM*, is out from Big Lucks. Caroline completed her MFA at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst and holds degrees in English Literature from the University of St. Andrews, the University of Oxford and Emory University. Her poetry and essays have appeared in *Conjunctions*, *Hunger Mountain* and *Black Warrior Review*, among others. Currently, she is pursuing a PhD at Georgia State University in Atlanta, where she continues to teach.

MENTORS

KATHERINE ANN DAVIS



Katherine Ann Davis is a writer from Wisconsin who serves as Senior Fiction Editor for *3Elements Review*. Recent work appears in or is forthcoming from *The Pinch*, *Nat. Brut*, *Passages North*, *Gigantic Sequins*, and *Sycamore Review*. Read more at katherineandavis.com.



MEG DAY

Meg Day is the recipient of the 2015-2016 Amy Lowell Poetry Travelling Scholarship, a recipient of a 2013 NEA Fellowship in Poetry, and the author of *Last Psalm at Sea Level* (Barrow Street Press, 2014), winner of the Barrow Street Poetry Prize and the Publishing Triangle's Audre Lorde Award, and a finalist for the Kate Tufts Discovery Award from Claremont Graduate University. Day is Assistant Professor of English & Creative Writing at Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, PA. www.megday.com

MENTORS

DANA DIEHL



Dana Diehl is the author of the short story collection *Our Dreams Might Align* (Jellyfish Highway Press, 2016). She earned her MFA in Fiction at Arizona State University, where she served as editor-in-chief of *Hayden's Ferry Review*. She earned her BA in Creative Writing at the Writers' Institute at Susquehanna University. Her work has appeared in *North American Review*, *Passages North*, *Booth*, and elsewhere. She lives in Tucson, Arizona.



TRISTA EDWARDS

Trista Edwards is an Ohio-born Georgia Peach living it up in Texas. She is currently a Doctoral Fellow in English at the University of North Texas. Her poems and reviews appear in *The Adroit Journal*, *Mid-American Review*, *32 Poems*, *American Literary Review*, *Birmingham Poetry Review*, *The Rumpus*, *Sou'wester*, *The Journal*, *Moon City Review*, and more. Trista has been a contributing writer at *Luna Luna Magazine* and editor of *Till the Tide: An Anthology of Mermaid Poetry*.

MENTORS

CODY ERNST



Cody Ernst is a writer living in San Francisco. His poetry has appeared in *Best New Poets*, *32 Poems*, *Gulf Coast Online*, *Bat City Review*, and elsewhere. He received the 2015 Mark Strand Scholarship from the Sewanee Writers' Conference. Cody has an MFA in poetry from The Writing Seminars at Johns Hopkins University, and currently reads poetry for *The Adroit Journal*.



KRIS FAATZ

Kris Faatz (rhymes with skates) is a pianist, writer, and teacher. Her debut novel, *To Love A Stranger*, was a finalist for the 2016 Schaffner Press Music in Literature Award, and is forthcoming from Blue Moon Publishers (Toronto). Her short fiction has appeared or is forthcoming in *Kenyon Review Online*, *Potomac Review*, *Reed*, *Bluestem*, *Digging Through the Fat*, and other journals. She has been a contributor at the Kenyon Review Writers and Novel Workshops and the Sewanee Writers' Conference, and has been an assistant editor for Bartleby Snopes literary journal.

MENTORS

MATTHEW GELLMAN



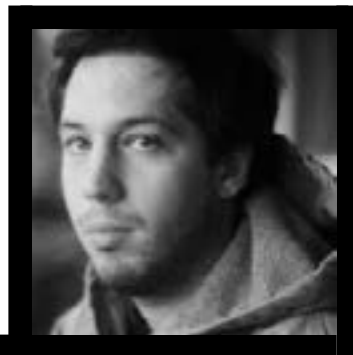
Matthew Gellman's poems are featured in *Thrush Poetry Journal*, *The Journal*, *H.O.W. Journal*, *Muzzle Magazine*, *DIALOGIST*, *Word Riot* and elsewhere. He is the recipient of an Academy of American Poets prize and a scholarship from the NYS Summer Writers Institute. Currently, he lives in New York, where he edits Lambda Literary's Poetry Spotlight and is an MFA candidate at Columbia University.

KIMBERLY GRABOWSKI STRAYER



Kimberly Grabowski Strayer is a poet and horsewoman from Kalamazoo, Michigan. Her poems have appeared in *Superstition Review*, *Midwestern Gothic*, *Pretty Owl Poetry*, *VECTOR Press*, and others. Her chapbook, *Afterward*, is available from Dancing Girl Press. She is currently pursuing an MFA in Poetry at The University of Pittsburgh.

MENTORS



J.P. GRASSER

J.P. Grasser currently lives in Salt Lake City, where he is a PhD candidate in Literature & Creative Writing at the University of Utah and serves as Managing Editor of *Quarterly West*. He is the recipient of a 2017-2019 Wallace Stegner Fellowship from Stanford University.



ANDREW GRETES

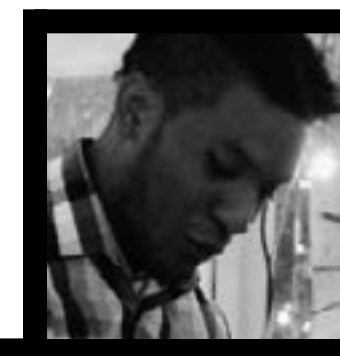
Andrew Gretes is the author of *How to Dispose of Dead Elephants* (Sandstone Press, 2014), a novel which explores epilepsy through fables. His fiction has appeared in *The Adroit Journal*, *Witness*, *The Pinch*, *SmokeLong Quarterly*, and other journals. Currently, he is a doctoral student in the Center for Writers at the University of Southern Mississippi.

MENTORS



BENJAMIN GUCCIARDI

Benjamin Gucciardi's poems have appeared in *Orion Magazine*, *Chautauqua*, *upstreet*, *Terrain.org*, *The California Journal of Poetics* and other journals. His poem "Border Angels" was selected by US Poet Laureate Juan Felipe Herrera as a finalist for the 2016 Santa Ana River Review's poetry contest. He is a 2017 Artsmith Fellow Resident and a winner of the Dorothy Rosenberg Memorial Prize. In addition to writing, Benjamin works with refugee and immigrant youth in Oakland, CA through Soccer Without Borders, an organization he founded in 2006.



KAMDEN HILLIARD

Kamden Hilliard is a reader at *Gigantic Sequins*, an editor at *Jellyfish Magazine*, and goes by Kam. They got posi vibes from The Ucross Foundation, The NFAA, The Davidson Institute, VSC, and Callaloo. The author of two chapbooks: *DISTRESS TOLERANCE* (Magic Helicopter Press, 2016) and *PERCEIVED DISTANCE FROM IMPACT* (Black Lawrence Press, 2017), Kam stays busy. Find their work in *Black Warrior Review*, *West Branch*, *Profane*, and other sunspots.

MENTORS

BEN HOFFMAN



Ben Hoffman's fiction has won the *Chicago Tribune*'s Nelson Algren Award and *Zoetrope: All-Story's* Short Fiction Contest, and appears online at *American Short Fiction*, *Granta*, *Joyland*, *Tin House*, and elsewhere. Originally from Pennsylvania, he received his MFA in fiction from UNC Wilmington and was the 2014-2015 Carol Houck Smith Fiction Fellow at the Wisconsin Institute for Creative Writing. He lives in Oakland, California, and is a 2015-2017 Wallace Stegner Fellow at Stanford University.



THEOPHILUS KWEK

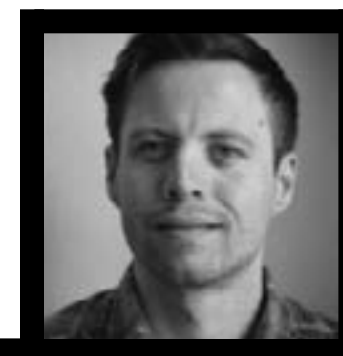
Theophilus Kwek has published four volumes of poetry, most recently *The First Five Storms*, which won the New Poets' Prize in 2016. He was also placed Second in the 2016 Stephen Spender Prize for Poetry in Translation and the 2016 Adroit Prize for Poetry. He served as President of the Oxford University Poetry Society and is now Co-Editor of both *Oxford Poetry* and *The Kindling*. He is pursuing an MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies at Oxford University.

MENTORS

PETER LABERGE



Peter LaBerge is the author of the chapbooks *Makeshift Cathedral* (YesYes Books, 2017) and *Hook* (Sibling Rivalry Press, 2015), included on the American Library Association's Over the Rainbow List and acquired by the U.S. Library of Congress. His recent work appears in *Best New Poets*, *Crazy-horse*, *Harvard Review*, *Iowa Review*, *Pleiades*, *Tin House*, and elsewhere. He is the recipient of a fellowship from the Bucknell University Stadler Center for Poetry and the founder and editor-in-chief of *The Adroit Journal*. He lives in Philadelphia, where he is a senior at the University of Pennsylvania.



KEEGAN LESTER

Keegan Lester splits his time between New York City and West Virginia. Mary Ruefle selected his first collection of poetry *this shouldn't be beautiful but it was & it's all i had, so i drew it* for the 2016 Slope Editions Book Prize. His work is published in or forthcoming from *Boston Review*, *Atlas Review*, *Powder Keg*, *BOAAT*, *The Journal*, *Phantom Books*, *Tinderbox*, *CutBank*, *Reality Beach* and *Sixth Finch*, among others, and has been featured on NPR, The New School Writing Blog and *ColdFront Mag*. He has been a finalist for the Georgia Poetry Prize and the coconut books Braddock Prize, is the co-founder and poetry editor for *Souvenir Lit*, and was a mentor for the 2016 Adroit Journal Summer Mentorship Program. He was born in Huntington Beach, California, and earned his MFA from Columbia University.

MENTORS

PAIGE LEWIS



Paige Lewis, whose poems have appeared or are forthcoming in *American Poetry Review*, *Ploughshares*, *Massachusetts Review*, *Colorado Review*, and elsewhere, is the 2016 recipient of the Florida Review Editors' Award in Poetry. Paige Lewis's chapbook, *Reasons to Wake You*, is forthcoming from Tupelo Press.



LO KWA MEI-EN

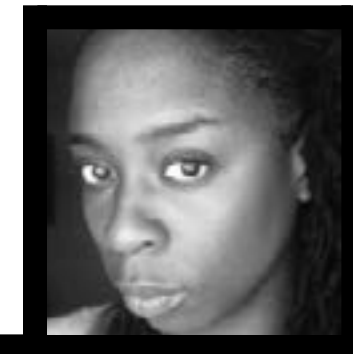
Lo Kwa Mei-en is a poet from Singapore and Ohio. Her first book, *Yearling*, won the 2013 Kundiman Poetry Prize and is available from Alice James Books. *The Bees Make Money in the Lion*, her latest book of poems, won the CSU Poetry Center Open Competition and is available from Cleveland State University Poetry Center. Other work includes *Two Tales*, a chapbook from Bloom Books, and *The Romances*, a chapbook forthcoming from The Lettered Streets Press.

MENTORS

BERN MULVEY



Bern Mulvey's poems have appeared, among other places, in *Poetry*, *Agni*, *FIELD*, *Beloit Poetry Journal*, *The Missouri Review*, *Michigan Quarterly Review*, *Cimarron Review*, *Passages North* and *Poetry East*. His most recent book, *Deep Snow Country*, won the 2013 FIELD Poetry Prize. He lives in Iwate, Japan.



MARIA PINTO

Maria Pinto's fiction has appeared in *Word Riot*, *Pinball*, *The Butter*, *Cleaver*, *Menacing Hedge*, and *FLAPPERHOUSE*, among others. She was an Ivan Gold Fellow at The Writers' Room of Boston, the city where she walks dogs, grows a veggie garden, and does karaoke. Her debut novel is in search of a home. She's working on the next.

MENTORS

JESSICA POLI



Jessica Poli is the author of the chapbooks *Alexia* (Sixth Finch), *Glassland* (JMWW), and *The Egg Mistress* (Gold Line Press). Her work has appeared in *Best New Poets*, *Caketrain*, and *Southern Indiana Review*, among others. She is a graduate of Syracuse University's MFA program, and the editor of *Birdfeast*.



DOUG RAMSPECK

Doug Ramspeck is the author of six poetry collections and one collection of short stories. His most recent book, *Naming the Field*, is forthcoming by LSU Press. Four books have received awards: *The Owl That Carries Us Away* (G. S. Sharat Chandra Prize for Short Fiction), *Original Bodies* (Michael Waters Poetry Prize), *Mechanical Fireflies* (Barrow Street Press Poetry Prize), and *Black Tupelo Country* (John Ciardi Prize for Poetry). Individual poems have appeared in *The Southern Review*, *The Kenyon Review*, *Slate*, and *The Georgia Review*. He is a two-time recipient of an Ohio Arts Council Individual Excellence Award.

MENTORS

JULIAN RANDALL



Julian Randall is a Living Queer Black poet from Chicago. A Pushcart Prize nominee, he has received fellowships from Callaloo, BOAAT and the Watering Hole, and was the 2015 National College Slam (CUPSI) Best Poet. Julian is the curator of *Winter Tangerine Review's* Lineage of Mirrors and a poetry editor for *Freezeray Magazine*. He is cofounder of the Afrolatinx poetry collective Piel Cafe. His work has appeared or is forthcoming in *The Adroit Journal*, *Nepantla*, *Rattle Poets Respond*, *Ninth Letter*, *Vinyl*, and *Puerto del Sol*, among others. He is a Poetry MFA candidate at Ole Miss.

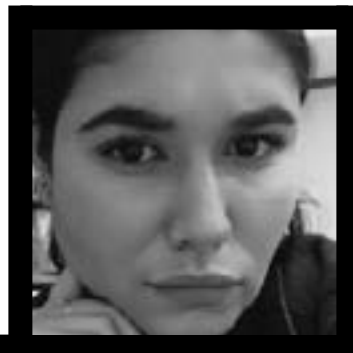


NANCY REDDY

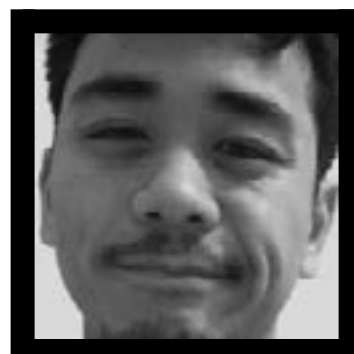
Nancy Reddy is the author of *Double Jinx* (Milkweed Editions, 2015), selected by Alex Lemon for the 2014 National Poetry Series. Her poems have appeared in *Poetry Daily*, *Verse Daily*, *The Adroit Journal*, *Tupelo Quarterly*, *32 Poems*, *Smartish Pace*, and elsewhere. She was awarded a Fall 2015 Promise Award from the Sustainable Arts Foundation and a Walter E Dakin Fellowship to the Sewanee Writers' Conference. She is Assistant Professor of Writing and First Year Studies at Stockton University in New Jersey.

MENTORS

LESLIE SAINZ



Leslie Sainz is a first-generation Cuban-American, born and raised in Miami, Florida. She is an MFA candidate in Poetry at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she serves as the editor-in-chief of *Devil's Lake*. Her work has appeared in or is forthcoming from *Hayden's Ferry Review*, *POOL*, *Spoon River Poetry Review*, and elsewhere.



ANTHONY VEASNA SO

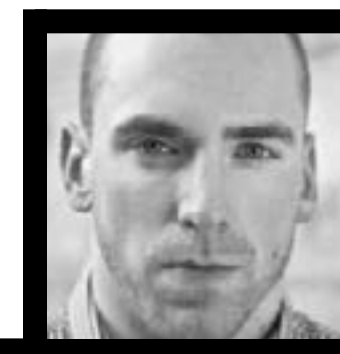
Anthony Veasna So is a gay "man," a Cambodian-American "son," and a recent graduate of Stanford University. A native of Stockton, CA, he was raised on stories of the Khmer Rouge Genocide that often, somehow, ended on a joke. His prose and comics have appeared or are forthcoming in *Barrelhouse*, *decomp*, *Hobart*, *Nashville Review*, *Ninth Letter Online*, and elsewhere. Currently, he teaches high school English and dabbles with standup comedy.

MENTORS

ANALICIA SOTELO



Analicia Sotelo is the author of *Virgin*, the inaugural winner of the Jake Adam York Prize, selected by Ross Gay (Milkweed Editions, 2018.) She is also the author of *Nonstop Godhead*, selected by Rigoberto González for a 2016 Poetry Society of America National Chapbook Fellowship. Her poems appear in *Kenyon Review*, *New England Review*, *The New Yorker*, *Boston Review*, and *Best New Poets*. She is the 2016 DISQUIET International Literary Prize winner in Poetry and has received scholarships from Squaw Valley and Image Text Ithaca. She holds an MFA in Poetry from the University of Houston.



GLENN STOWELL

Glenn Stowell translated and edited *You Jump to Another Dream*, a collection of contemporary Chinese poetry by Yan Jun, which was published by Vagabond Press in 2012. Most recently, his fiction has appeared in the *Green Mountains Review* and the *Suisun Valley Review*, and is forthcoming in *Weber—the Contemporary West*. His poetry has recently appeared in the *Berkeley Poetry Review*, the *Green Mountains Review*, and *Tulane Review*. He is twenty-six years old and lives in Boston, Massachusetts.

MENTORS

ORIANA TANG



Oriana Tang is a sophomore at Yale University. A 2015 United States Presidential Scholar in the Arts, YoungArts Finalist in Poetry & Short Story, and Davidson Fellow in Literature, her work appears in *DIALOGIST*, *PANK*, *Sierra Nevada Review*, *Winter Tangerine Review*, *The Best Teen Writing of 2014*, and *The Adroit Journal*, where she is currently a prose reader. She studied poetry with Peter LaBerge as a mentee in the 2014 Adroit Journal Summer Mentorship Program.



BRIAN TIERNEY

Brian Tierney's poetry has appeared in or is forthcoming from *New England Review*, *Kenyon Review*, *AGNI*, *FIELD*, *Best New Poets*, *Poetry Northwest*, *Gettysburg Review*, and others. A former Wallace Stegner Fellow in Poetry at Stanford University, and a graduate of the Bennington College MFA Writing Seminars, he was named among *Narrative Magazine's* "30 Below 30". He currently lives in Oakland, CA.

MENTORS

GRAHAM TODD



Graham Todd is a graduate of Stanford University, and an MFA Candidate in Fiction at Bowling Green State University. He has served as the Senior Managing Editor of *Leland Quarterly* and as an Editorial Intern for *The Rumpus*. His work appears in *Connu*, *East Bay Express*, *Translit Magazine*, and others.

CADY VISHNIAC



Cady Vishniac's fiction has won the prizes at *Mid-American Review* and *New Letters*, and is forthcoming from *The Adroit Journal*. Her poetry has been featured on *Verse Daily*.

MENTORS

SHELLEY WONG



Shelley Wong is the author of *Rare Birds*, a winner of the 2016 Diode Editions chapbook award. Her poems have appeared in *Crazyhorse*, *Fairy Tale Review*, *The Normal School*, *Sixth Finch*, *Southern Humanities Review*, *Vinyl*, and elsewhere. She is the recipient of a Pushcart Prize, a Kundiman fellowship, and scholarships from Fine Arts Work Center and Napa Valley Writers' Conference. She holds an MFA from the Ohio State University, where she was a poetry editor for *The Journal*, and a BA from UC Berkeley. She lives in Oakland, California.



"IREEL", Flora Borsi, Issue Eleven.

MENTORS

MENTOR REQUIREMENTS

Mentors must be at least eighteen years of age, and may be previously affiliated or unaffiliated with *The Adroit Journal*. The ideal mentor is organized, knowledgeable about either contemporary poetry or prose, able to work well with others, and plans to be reachable for the duration of the program—late-June to early-August. Additionally, the ideal Mentor has experience in the classroom with creative writing, whether as a student, a teacher/professor, or both.

Though each Mentor will be limited to one genre of mentorship per summer, a number of mentors have done either cross-genre work or work in multiple genres. If selected to participate in the program, mentors will have the option of creating an original syllabus, using one of three syllabus models provided by the Program Director, or using an outside syllabus. Mentors will be assigned students by the Program Director & Editor-in-Chief, based on aesthetic fit.



"Hearing Color", Olga Belyanina, Issue Eleven.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

It is incredibly difficult (read: impossible) to quantify any given student's writing skill in the greater context of other students.

More than anything else, we view the existing competitive nature of opportunities for emerging writers (such as this mentorship program, for example) as a necessary evil. As is the case with adult writers, **we view writing as an inherently collaborative, connection-based activity**, not a competitive one, and like to stress the former throughout the duration of the mentorship.

That said, **we recognize the unique and meaningful doors that the following awards programs (and many others!) unlock for students** who—through a combination of aesthetic luck and, yes, substantial talent, promise, and potential—are fortunate enough to be recognized at the highest level.

We are grateful for the existence of such opportunities for those that they are able to recognize, and encourage our mentees to view rejection as an inevitable component of the submission process, as a force (albeit a frustrating one) that all writers face in their early careers. With this mindset, we are incredibly proud to cheer from the sidelines for all of our mentorship students, whether they choose to participate in and/or are eligible for such awards programs or not.



2016 Director Peter LaBerge with '14, '15, & '16 mentees at Scholastic NYC 2016.

NATIONAL SCHOLASTIC ART & WRITING AWARDS

Each year, the **Alliance for Young Artists and Writers** partners with more than 100 visual arts and literary arts organizations across the country to bring the Awards to local communities. Each year, teens in grades 7 through 12 apply in 29 categories of art and writing. Panelists look for works that best exemplify originality, technical skill, and the emergence of a personal voice or vision.

Last year, students submitted 320,000 works of art and writing to the Awards; 18,000 works of art and writing were recognized with Gold Keys [the top regional award] and celebrated in local exhibitions and ceremonies. From this batch, the top 2,000 works in the country earned National Medals and were later celebrated at a ceremony at Carnegie Hall. Selections from the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards are published in the National Catalog and *The Best Teen Writing*, which are distributed to schools and libraries nationwide.

— [Alliance for Young Artists and Writers Website](#)

Since its inception in 2013, the mentorship program has educated students who have received more than **a hundred National Scholastic Gold and Silver Medals for Poetry, Flash Fiction, Short Story, Personal Essay/Memoir, Dramatic Script, Novel Writing, and Writing Portfolio**, among others, as well as many **American Voices Medals**, bestowed to work selected as the best of its geographical region.

The results of the **2016 National Scholastic Art & Writing Awards** were released last year—members of the *Adroit Journal* community received **65 National Writing Medals** and **3 National Art Medals**.

Recognition highlights include **two 2016 National Gold Medal \$10,000 Writing Portfolio winners**; **four 2016 National Silver Medal with Distinction \$1,000 Writing Portfolio winners**; **four 2016 American Voices (Best-in-Region) Award recipients**; **four 2016 Best in Grade Award recipients**; and a **2016 Gedenk Award for Tolerance recipient**.



Scholastic.

YOUNGARTS AWARDS

YoungArts' signature program is an application-based award for emerging artists ages 15–18 or in grades 10–12 from across the United States. Selected through a blind adjudication process conducted by an independent panel of highly accomplished artists, YoungArts Winners receive valuable support, including financial awards of up to \$10,000, professional development and educational experiences working with renowned mentors—such as Mikhail Baryshnikov, Sarah Brightman, Plácido Domingo, Frank Gehry, Jeff Koons, Wynton Marsalis, Rebecca Walker and Carrie Mae Weems—and performance and exhibition opportunities at some of the nation's leading cultural institutions.

Additionally, YoungArts Winners are eligible for nomination as a U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts. [Those selected] will receive a Presidential Medal at the White House and perform and exhibit at the Kennedy Center and the Smithsonian.

— [YoungArts Website](#)

The Adroit Journal has supported **54 high school writers who have been subsequently recognized for Poetry, Short Story, Creative Nonfiction, Dramatic Script, Novel, and Spoken Word, as well as Music — Piano, Music—Singer/Songwriter, and Cinematic Arts.** The list of **2017 United States Presidential Scholar nominees** was released in January, and a total of three mentorship alums received nominations in the following categories:

Olivia Alger (Edina, MN) — Writing: Short Story

Carissa Chen (Exeter, NH) — Writing: Poetry

Samuel Gee (Greenville, SC) — Writing: Poetry

Prose editor **Isabella Nilsson** (Writing: Short Story), mentorship alum and poetry reader **Audrey Spensley** (Writing: Poetry), and contributor **Rachel Page** (Academics; Writing: Short Story) were named 2016 U.S. Presidential Scholars, and were recognized at the White House in June.



111 likes

_christinaim adroit takes youngarts 2017! fitting given that were it not for adroit's gorgeous summer mentorship, i would never have discovered the Passion for Poetry™ that got me here. i love this lil writer crew & the much bigger one behind us that so adroitly (get it) helped us learn & grow.

Instagram.

FOYLE YOUNG POETS OF THE YEAR

The Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award is sponsored by the Poetry Society of the United Kingdom, and recognizes poems written by any young poet aged 11-17. Each year 100 winners (85 Commendations and 15 Overall Winners) are selected by a team of high profile judges. The winners receive their awards at an annual prize-giving event on National Poetry Day, and are published in *The Guardian* as well as an internationally distributed anthology released by the Awards.

— [The Poetry Society Website](#)

The *Adroit Journal* has been fortunate to mentor **eight students** subsequently recognized as **Overall Winners of the Poetry Society of the UK's Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award**:

- Emily Burns (2012 — New York, USA)
- Flora de Falbe (2013 — London, UK)
- Caroline Harris (2013 — California, USA)
- Emma Lister (2013 — Devon, UK)
- Rebecca Alifimoff (2014 — Indiana, USA)
- Audrey Spensley (2014 — Ohio, USA)
- Ben Read (2015 — Washington, USA)
- Letitia Chan (2016 — Hong Kong)



Students affiliated with *The Adroit Journal* have received an additional total of **35 Commendations from the Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award** since 2012.

An interview with mentorship student **Rebecca Alifimoff** aired on [BBC](#) in October 2015. Rebecca studied poetry with Peter LaBerge as part of the 2014 *Adroit Journal* Summer Mentorship Program.

NATIONAL STUDENT POETS PROGRAM

Annually, five students are selected for one year of service as literary ambassadors, each representing a different geographic region of the country. By elevating and showcasing their work for a national audience, the program strives to inspire other young people to achieve excellence in their own creative endeavors and promote the essential role of writing and the arts in academic and personal success.

The National Student Poets Program connects students with audiences and resources in their communities through the Institute of Museum and Library Services' community-based network of libraries and museums and builds upon the Alliance's long-standing work with educators and creative teens through the prestigious National Scholastic Art & Writing Awards.

— [National Student Poets Program website](#)

The *Adroit Journal* and the *Adroit Journal* Summer Mentorship Program has supported **nine students** recognized as **National Student Poets** since the National Student Poets Program's inception in 2012.

- Luisa Banchoff (Arlington, VA) — Class of 2012, Southeast Region
- Miles Hewitt (Vancouver, WA) — Class of 2012, West Region
- Claire Lee (New York, NY) — Class of 2012, Northeast Region
- Aline Dolinh (Oakton, VA) — Class of 2013, Southeast Region
- Nathan Cummings (Mercer Island, WA) — Class of 2013, West Region
- Julia Falkner (Louisville, CO) — Class of 2014, West Region
- Eileen Huang (Lincroft, NJ) — Class of 2015, Northeast Region
- Maya Eashwaran (Alpharetta, GA) — Class of 2016, Southeast Region
- Joey Reisberg (Towson, MD) — Class of 2016, Northeast Region



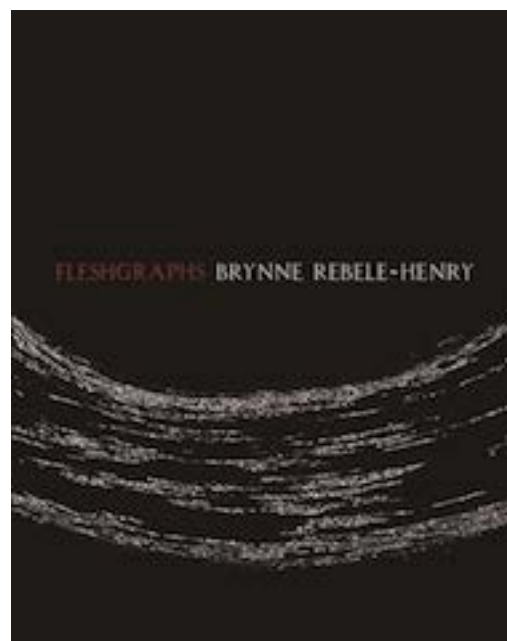
OTHER RECENT NEWS

Talin Tahajian (Mentee, 2013) has published poetry in *Salt Hill Journal*, *Indiana Review*, *Columbia Poetry Review*, *Best New Poets*, *Kenyon Review Online*, *DIAGRAM*, and *Washington Square Review*, among others. She has been recognized as a semi-finalist for the “Discovery”/Boston Review Poetry Prize, as well as a finalist for the Indiana Review Poetry Prize, the Black Warrior Review Poetry Prize, the Black River Chapbook Competition from Black Lawrence Press, and the Button Poetry Chapbook Contest. Currently, she reads English as a third-year undergraduate student at the University of Cambridge.

Brynne Rebele-Henry (Mentee, 2015) is sixteen, and her debut hybrid book of poetry *Fleshgraphs* (previously recognized as a finalist for the 2015 Cleveland State University First Book Poetry Competition) was released from Nightboat Books last fall. Brynne has also published her poetry and fiction in *Prairie Schooner* and *Denver Quarterly*, among others, and writes for the blog of *The Adroit Journal* (where, by the way, she has published both poetry and fiction as the runner-up for the 2015 Adroit Prize for Poetry and the recipient of the 2016 Adroit Prize for Prose).

Amanda Silberling (Mentee, 2013), now an acclaimed music journalist, photographer, and poet, coordinated an incredibly important and successful panel at the University of Pennsylvania’s Kelly Writers House entitled “Shifting the Gaze: Women in Music,” featuring Camae Ayewa, Fran Blanche, Diane Foglizzo, Maria Raha, and Cynthia Schemmer.

Mentorship Founder, Previous Director, and Current Mentor **Peter LaBerge** and Mentee-Turned-Mentor **Talin Tahajian** were featured in *Teen Vogue* as two of “Nine Young Poets ... Actually Making the Genre Cool Again,” alongside Danez Smith and Sarah Kay. (Though, really, poetry has always been cool.)



GRADUATION MATRICULATION

Each year, *The Adroit Journal* hosts an exciting group of **passionate, creative, and driven** high school students from around the world. Graduates have landed at the following universities.

CLASS OF 2017 (EARLY COMMITMENTS)

Harvard University (5)
 New York University - Abu Dhabi
 Princeton University (2)
 University of Pennsylvania (5)
 Stanford University
 Yale University

CLASS OF 2016 AND EARLIER (MATRICULATION)

Bard College Music Conservatory	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	University of Cambridge — UK (2)
Barnard College	New York University (2)	University of Chicago (2)
Brown University (3)	Oxford University — UK	University of Connecticut
Durham University — UK	Pomona College	University of Pennsylvania (9)
Columbia University (6)	Princeton University (6)	University of Texas, Austin
Cornell University	Smith College	University of Toronto — CAN
Emory University (3)	Stanford University (6)	University of Washington
Harvard University (3)	The College of New Jersey	Virginia Commonwealth University
Kenyon College	University of California, Berkeley	Yale University (4)

TESTIMONIALS

“Having seen the mentorship program from both sides, as both mentee and mentor, I can honestly say it’s a profoundly beautiful and affirming experience for both parties. Not only did the program improve the quality of my writing, but also it introduced me to an incredible community of writers that has been a critical support network as I and my writing have grown.”



Oriana Tang, Mentee ‘14 and Mentor ‘15 & ‘17
United States Presidential Scholar in the Arts (Poetry & Short Story)
Davidson Fellow in Literature
YoungArts Finalist in Writing (Poetry & Short Story)
National Scholastic Writing Awards Gold & Best in Grade Medalist

“The Adroit Journal Summer Mentorship Program was one of the most amazing things I’ve ever experienced. There, I found a community of young writers who were interested in engaging with poetry in an exciting way and in growing as people and writers. The mentorship helped me find and develop my poetic voice, explore my poetry, stretch the limits of what poetry could be, and make lasting friendships with like-minded artists. I recommend the mentorship to anyone who wants to strengthen their understanding of their own work and build long-lasting, wonderful friendships with other young writers.”

Aidan Forster, Mentee ‘15
National Scholastic Writing Awards Gold & Best in Grade Medalist
Publication in *Indiana Review*, *Best Teen Writing*, *Pleiades*, and elsewhere



TESTIMONIALS

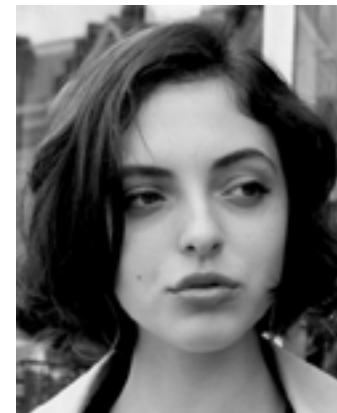
“This mentorship program was truly a remarkable experience. Not only were the mentors and mentees professional and thorough, they were open-minded to my ideas and ideologies, my beliefs and personal predilections. They didn’t rewrite my work for me but pushed me towards discovery and revision through their thought-provoking questions about imagery, form, and syntax.”

Alex Greenberg, Mentee ‘15
Five-Time Commendation, Foyle Young Poet of the Year Awards
Publication in *Columbia Poetry Review*, *Florida Review*, *Salt Hill Journal*,
Third Coast, *Washington Square Review*, and elsewhere



“The Adroit Journal Mentorship Program helped me find a steady poetic voice and learn to intensively edit poems. I made lasting friendships with other mentees and mentors—one of the other mentees, Aidan Forster and I, went on to create an online community for young LGBT+ writers once the mentorship ended, as well as an LGBT+ focused literary publication called *Fissure*. *The Adroit Journal*, never mind its network of emerging and established writers, never ceases to astound me.”

Brynne Rebele-Henry, Mentee ‘15
Author, *Fleshgraphs* (Nightboat Books, 2016)
Recipient, Adroit Prize for Prose
Publication in *Denver Quarterly*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Rookie*, and elsewhere



MENTORSHIP ALUMNI

The *Adroit Journal* is proud to present the following list of high school mentorship program alumni. Students enter the program with varying levels of workshop and writing experience, and come from schools of all sorts. In this list, **over half of the United States** is represented, as well as **Canada, China, Hong Kong, India, Latvia, Malaysia, Singapore, South Africa, and the United Kingdom**. Year of participation is noted in parenthesis.

POETRY

Rebecca Alifimoff ('14)	Lindsay Emi ('14)
Julia Allen ('13)	Sophie Evans ('15)
Sophie Allen ('16)	Helli Fang ('16)
Margot Armbruster ('16)	Griffin Blue Fay ('15)
Nikita Bastin ('16)	Joseph Felkers ('16)
Yasmin Belkhyr ('13)	Lauren Finkle ('13)
Nathan Blansett ('15)	Aidan Forster ('15)
Gabriel Braunstein ('15)	Kindall Gant ('16)
Annabel Brazaitis ('16)	Michel Ge ('16)
Emily Burns ('13)	Samuel Gee ('16)
Emma Camp ('16)	Reuben Gelley Newman ('16)
Annie Castillo ('16)	Farah Ghafoor ('16)
Adelina Ceretto ('14)	Andrea Giugni ('15)
Letitia Chan ('16)	Ava Goga ('15)
Carissa Chen ('15)	Eden Gordon ('14)
Michelle Chen ('16)	Erica Guo ('14)
Emma Choi ('16)	Alex Greenberg ('15)
Jisoo Choi ('16)	Kathryn Hargett ('15)
Annabelle Crowe ('16)	Caroline Harris ('14)
Flora de Falbe ('13)	Rachana Hegde ('16)
Maya Eashwaran ('15)	Miles Hewitt ('13)



"Triptych", Wendi Yan, Issue Twenty.

POETRY (CONT.)

Cassandra Hsiao ('16)	Ben Read ('15)
Eileen Huang ('16)	Brynne Rebele-Henry ('15)
Christina Im ('15)	Joey Reisberg ('16)
Jimin Kang ('16)	Josh Schlachter ('16)
Alexandra Karaim ('16)	Abigail Schott-Rosenfield ('13)
Elizabeth Kim ('16)	Nicole Seah ('16)
Madeline Kim ('14)	Elena Sénéchal-Becker ('15)
Tomas Kontakevich ('16)	Amanda Silberling ('13)
Anthony Lagana ('16)	Jasmine Simms ('14)
Alicia Lai ('13)	Scott Stevens ('16)
Michal Leibowitz ('15)	Eliana Swerdlow ('16)
Rachel Litchman ('16)	Talin Tahajian ('13)
Erica Lin ('14)	Oriana Tang ('14)
Emma Lister ('14)	Caroline Tsai ('15)
Katherine Liu ('16)	Selin Turkyilmaz ('16)
Patricia Liu ('16)	Jamie Uy ('15)
Emily Mack ('14)	Lucy Wainger ('13 & '15)
Rhiannon McGavin ('16)	Erintrude Wrona ('15)
Molly McGinnis ('13)	Alisha Yi ('16)
Abigail Minard ('15)	Emily Yin ('16)
Alyssa Mulé ('14)	Carrie Zhang ('15)
Meghana Mysore ('15)	Emily Zhang ('15)
Jacob Oet ('13)	Jessica Zhang ('15)
Noel Peng ('16)	Margaret Zhang ('16)
Taylor Petty ('15)	Audrey Zhao ('15)
Amanda Prager ('13)	Lily Zhou ('16)
Anika Prakash ('16)	Lisa Zou ('16)
Christina Qiu ('13)	

MENTORSHIP ALUMNI

FICTION

Olivia Alger ('16)
Ethan Aronson ('14)
Anjali Berdia ('16)
Caroline Bernstein ('16)
Walker Caplan ('15)
Catherine Cheng ('15)
Maeve Flaherty ('15)
Talia Flores ('15)
Robert Esposito ('14)
Charlotte Goddu ('14)
Julia Gourary ('16)
Jaclyn Grimm ('16)
Alexandra Gulden ('16)
Jordan Harper ('16)
Angelo Hernandez-Sias ('16)
Lilly Keefe-Powers ('16)
Anna Kramer ('15)
Elizabeth Lemieux ('16)
Jessica Li ('14)

Helene Lovett ('14)
Kaley Mamo ('16)
Alyssa Mazzoli ('16)
Brianna McNish ('15)
Christina Qiu ('14)
Jae Haeng Rhee ('16)
Lucy Silbaugh ('14)
Polina Solovyeva ('16)
Shannon Sommers ('15)
Jane Song ('15)
Audrey Spensley ('14)
Lily Spiro ('14)
Kwan Ann Tan ('16)
Sarah Tran ('14)
Smriti Verma ('15)
Jordan Villegas ('16)
Alisa Wadsworth ('16)
Charity Young ('16)
Emily Zhao ('15)

MENTORSHIP ALUMNI

DRAMATIC SCRIPT

Anastasia Hutnick ('15)
Safwan Khatib ('15)

JOURNALISM

Jordan Cutler-Tietjen ('15)
Jane Levy ('15)
Eli Winter ('15)

NONFICTION

Daniel Blokh ('16)
Rona Wang ('16)



"Barista", Lumi Barron, Issue Twenty.

ABOUT THE JOURNAL

The Adroit Journal was founded in November 2010 by poet Peter LaBerge. At its foundation, the journal has its eyes focused ahead, seeking to showcase what its global staff of emerging writers sees as the future of poetry, prose, and art.

Recognized in *Pushcart Prizes: Best of the Small Presses, Poetry Daily, Best of the Net, Best New Poets, Best American Nonrequired Reading, Verse Daily, Teen Vogue, and NPR*, among others, *The Adroit Journal* has featured the voices of Dorianne Laux, Alex Dimitrov, Laura Kasischke, Terrance Hayes, Lydia Millet, Ellen Bass, NoViolet Bulawayo, Diane Glancy, Ned Vizzini, and beyond.

[Masthead](#)

[Anthology Presence](#)

[Nominations](#)

