

## About @Salon

A theater of conversation and exchange akin to the literary salons of the 17th and 18th century, ISU's @Salon is a welcome space for artists and art enthusiasts from area colleges and universities, the larger Bloomington-Normal community and beyond. Providing an interdisciplinary showcase for the works of renowned local and regional artists, @Salon is a celebration of creativity and dialogue in action. As a highlight, @Salon features presentation and discussion of works-in-progress using Liz Lerman's Format for Critical Response. @Salon. Creativity. LIVE!

## About our host

Poet, performer, sound artist, and scholar, **Duriel E. Harris** is the author of *Drag* (Elixir Press) and *Amnesiac: Poems* (Sheep Meadow Press). With artist Scott Rankin, she is co-author of *Speleology*—an official selection of the 2011 International Literary Film Festival (New York), the 2012 Visible Verse Festival (Vancouver), and the 2012 ZEBRA Poetry Film Festival (Berlin). A recipient of grants from the Illinois Arts Council, the Cave Canem Foundation, and the Rockefeller Brothers Fund and post-doctoral residencies at UIC and the University of California, Santa Barbara, Harris's work has been featured and published internationally. Current projects include the AMNESIAC media art project and "Thingification," a solo play in one act. A co-founder of the Black Took Collective and member of Douglas Ewart and Inventions free jazz ensemble, she is an associate professor of English and teaches creative writing and poetics at Illinois State University.

## About our featured artists

As a wordsmith, **Grill Billyenz**, barely in his twenties, wields the tongue with the precision of a spectacular samurai seasoned by centuries of war and discipline. A part of the Midwest's burgeoning power collective Dojo Dungeon, Grill Billyenz brings a style of MCing reminiscent of himself and his scientific, philosophical, and aesthetic musings combined into a creative collage of an extensive vocabulary, anime references, Black history, encoded and yet simultaneously decoded lambasting of pop rap icons and culture, and more.

**Jodi Birdwell** earned an MFA in Printmaking from the University of Illinois–Champaign-Urbana in 1993. During graduate school, she studied at the Cité Universitaire in Paris and expanded her interests to Installation, Assemblage, Painting and Drawing. Her background also includes Museum Exhibition Preparation, Design, and Art History. She exhibits two-dimensional and three-dimensional works in tandem and the current exhibition is from a new body of work including linen panel paintings, charcoal drawings on starched cuffs, and ceramic sculpture. Birdwell is a Professor of Art at Lake Land College in Mattoon, Illinois.

**Teaadora Nikolova** is a folk musician who has been influenced by minimalist composers and confessionalist poets. She originates from Bloomington-Normal, living nomadically in the United States for a little more than two years. The music has been described as “intimate, spellbinding, and heart-breaking.” Teaadora is accompanied by Mark Grieff, bass; Barry Blinderman, piano/synth; and Ryan Tauscher, drums.

## About our works-in-progress presenters

**Caitlin Alvarez** currently pursues a master's in English studies and certificate in Women's and Gender Studies at Illinois State University. She completed her bachelor of arts in English at Louisiana State University.

**Jeffrey Higgins** is a poet, filmmaker, and musician from Minier, Illinois. He currently lives in Bloomington, works as a janitor at the Illinois House, and rides a bicycle.

## About our cinépoetry program

### ‣ **Paleoacoustics**

Runtime: 2:55

Poet: Forrest Gander

### ‣ **Ligadura**

Runtime: 2:26

Poet: Forrest Gander (translated into Spanish by Valerie Mejer, art by Valerie Mejer)

### ‣ **Born to Die**

Runtime: 3:20

Filmmaker: Alastair Cook Poet: Zaher Mousa

### ‣ **Diana and the Face of the Moon**

Runtime: 3:30

Filmmaker: CA Conrad, Poet: Ian Ellasante

### ‣ **Dark Enough**

Runtime: 7:07

Filmmaker: Jeanne Liotta, Poet: Lisa Gill

### ‣ **4 Films: Thin Woe With, Texture 3 With, Fluid With, Moonth With**

Runtime: 5:11 (total)

Filmmaker and Poet: Nico Vassilakis

### ‣ **Hypergraphic Love Poem**

Runtime: 00:30

Filmmaker and Poet: mLEKAL aND

### ‣ **Meaning**

Runtime: 00:40

Filmmaker and Poet: Jay Besemer

### ‣ **from Collectible Holographic(s)**

Runtime: ~3:00

Filmmaker: Stephanie Gray, Poet: Alan Gilbert

### ‣ **My Sunset Gun**

Runtime: 2:04

Filmmaker and Poet: Francesco Levato

**Total program runtime approximately 30 minutes**

## About our filmmakers and poets

**Forrest Gander** is a poet, essayist, novelist, critic, and translator. His book *Core Samples from the World* was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Award. The author of numerous other books of poetry, including *Redstart: An Ecological Poetics* and *Science & Steepleflower*, Gander also writes novels (*As a Friend*), essays (*A Faithful Existence*) and translates. His most recent translations are *Fungus Skull Eye Wing: Selected Poems of Alfonso D'Aquino* and *Watchword* by Pura López Colomé; *Spectacle & Pigsty* by Kiwao Nomura; and *Firefly Under the Tongue: Selected Poems of Coral Bracho*. His most recent anthologies are *Pinholes in the Night: Essential Poems from Latin America* and *Panic Cure: Poems from Spain for the 21st Century*. He is also a Professor of English and Comparative Literature at Brown University.

**Valerie Mejer** is a poet, essayist, translator, and painter. As an artist, she has been part of diverse poetic collaborations among which are two books by Antonio Prete: *Menhir* and *L'imperfection de la Lune*, *Los Boteros de la Noche* by Raúl Zurita, and *Ligatures* by Forrest Gander. Her poetry books include *Geografías de Niebla*, *Esta Novela Azul*, *Ante el Ojo del Cíclope*, and two recent titles, *de la ola*, *el atajo* and *Cuaderno de Edimburgo* published in Spain by Amargord Editions.

**Alastair Cook** An established and award-winning artist, Cook works with lens-based media focusing on large format film and antique photographic practice; he also works as a filmmaker using 8mm and 16mm film, combining these with digital technology to great effect. His work is mercurial, rooted in place and the intrinsic connections between people, land and sea. Cook is currently artist in residence for Absent Voices.

**Ian Ellasante** is a transgender poet and artist of African and Choctaw descent. Ian developed and recently taught the workshops "Writing the Threshold: Poetry in Transitional Spaces" at Casa Libre and "Queering Liminality: The Uncommon Beauty and Creative Potential of Middle Spaces" at the 2013 Trans and Genderqueer Poetry Symposium. He received the Native Writer Award in Poetry at the 2011 Taos Summer Writers' Conference and has had poems published in *Currency*, *Evening Will Come*, *Trickhouse*, *Jupiter 88*, and *The Feminist Wire*. Originally from Memphis, Ian has made Tucson his home since 2007.

**CA Conrad** is the author of six books including *ECODEVIANCE: (Soma)tics for the Future Wilderness* (Wave Books, 2014), *A BEAUTIFUL MARSUPIAL AFTERNOON* (WAVE Books, 2012) and *The Book of Frank* (WAVE Books, 2010). A 2014 Lannan Fellow, a 2013 MacDowell Fellow, and a 2011 Pew Fellow, he also conducts workshops on (Soma)tastic poetry and Ecopoetics. Visit him online at [CAConrad.blogspot.com](http://CAConrad.blogspot.com)

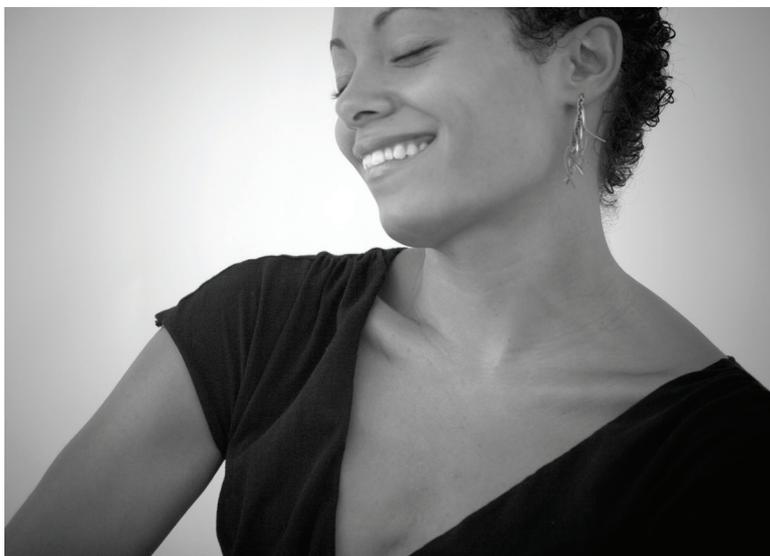
**Lisa Gill** is an arts activist and author of three books of poetry including *Red as a Lotus, Mortar & Pestle*, and *Dark Enough*. A fourth book, *The Relenting*, a stage play or poem scripted for two voices, is forthcoming from New Rivers Press. She frequently collaborates with artists and musicians and values the process tremendously. She is also the recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship and a New Mexico Literary Arts Gratitude Award and received her MFA with distinction from UNM in creative nonfiction.

**Jeanne Liotta** makes film videos and other cultural ephemera such as works on paper, photographs, projection performances, and intimate installations. Her award-winning films include, *Observando El Cielo* (2007) *Eclipse* (2005) seen in the Whitney Biennial, and more recently with installations such as *Diagram Squared* (2013) at Microscope Gallery in Brooklyn NY. She is currently an Assistant Professor at the University of Colorado–Boulder, as well as film/video faculty for the Milton Avery Graduate School of the Arts at Bard College NY.

**Nico Vassilakis** works in both visual and textual language. He co-edited *The Last Vispo Anthology: Visual Poetry 1998-2008* (Fantagraphics Books, 2012). Recent books include *MOMENTS NOTICE* (Luna Bisonte Prods, 2013) and *ALL-PURPOSE VISPO* (<https://www.createspace.com/4632347>). Nico maintains a website on Staring Poetics: [staringpoetics.weebly.com/staring.html](http://staringpoetics.weebly.com/staring.html).

**mIEKAL aND** is a longtime DIY cultural anarchist and the creator of an infoplex worth of visual-verbal lit, audio-art, performance ritual, and hypermedia for the Macintosh, all distributed by Xexoxial Editions. His hypermedia works reside at JOGLARS Crossmedia Broadcast. Recent work has focused on activating online collaborative workspaces where writers and media artists can create collective digital works in a real-time environment.

*Filmmaker and poet biographies continue on page 8*



## About our special guest

**CM Burroughs** serves as Assistant Professor of Poetry at Columbia College Chicago. Burroughs has been awarded fellowships and grants from Yaddo, The MacDowell Colony, Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, Cave Canem Foundation, Callaloo Writers Workshop, and the University of Pittsburgh. She has received commissions from the Studio Museum of Harlem and the Warhol Museum to create poetry in response to art installations. A Pushcart Prize nominee and a finalist for the 2009 Gift of Freedom Award, her poetry has appeared in journals including *Callaloo*, *jubilat*, *Ploughshares*, *VOLT*, *Bat City Review*, and *Sou'wester*. Burroughs is a graduate of Sweet Briar College and the MFA program at the University of Pittsburgh. *The Vital System* is her debut collection of poetry from Tupelo Press. She is Senior Poetry Editor for *Tupelo Quarterly* and co-Editor-in-Chief for *Court Green*.

## @Salon

Welcome

12.15p Doug Johnson—McLean County Arts Center  
Duriel E. Harris—ISU

### I

Musical Selections

12.30p Grill Billyenz with DJ Polifino

### II

Work in Progress:

12.45p Caitlin Alvarez  
poetic flash nonfiction from “True or False”

Open Gallery

1.45p – 2.45p

### III

Musical Selections

2.45p Teadora Nikolova  
with Mark Grieff: bass, Barry Blinderman: piano/synth,  
and Ryan Tauscher: drums

### IV

Work in Progress:

3.15p Jeff Higgins  
poetic audiovisual extrospection from  
“Rise Up You Gravel Bodies”

### V

Reading

4.15p CM Burroughs

**Jay Besemer** is a hybrid artist and the author of several poetry collections (some under his previous name, Jen Besemer). His most recent book is *A New Territory Sought*, available from Moria, and his most recent journal publication is Issue 25 of *TENDE RLOIN* (February 2014). You can still look him up at [www.jenbesemer.com](http://www.jenbesemer.com). To see his latest video poem, click <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yV7xjvO-rTw>.

**Stephanie Gray's** first book of poems, *Heart Stoner Bingo*, was published by Straw Gate Books in 2007. A recent chapbook, *I thought you said it was sound/how does that sound* was published in 2012 by Portable Press at Yo-Yo Labs. Also a super 8 filmmaker, her experimental / city symphony / and queer-themed films have screened internationally at festivals such as Viennale, Oberhausen, Chicago Underground, and queer fests such Frameline, Mix, and Inside Out.

**Alan Gilbert** is the author of the poetry book, *Late in the Antenna Fields* (Futurepoem, 2011), and a collection of essays, articles, and reviews entitled *Another Future: Poetry and Art in a Postmodern Twilight* (Wesleyan University Press, 2006). His poems have appeared in *BOMB*, *Boston Review*, *The Brooklyn Rail*, *Chicago Review*, *Denver Quarterly*, *Fence*, *jubilat*, and the *Nation*, among other places. Gilbert's writings on art and poetry have appeared in a variety of publications, including *Aperture*, *Art Agenda*, *Artforum*, *Bidoun*, *Bookforum*, *Cabinet*, *Modern Painters*, *Parkett*, *Time Out New York*, etc.

## About our cinépoetry curator

Poet, translator, and new media artist **Francesco Levato** is the author of four books of poetry: *Endless, Beautiful, Exact*; *Elegy for Dead Languages*; *War Rug*, a book length documentary poem; and *Marginal State*. He has translated into English the works of Italian poets Tiziano Fratus, *Creaturing*, and Fabiano Alborghetti, *The Opposite Shore*. His poems have appeared in *Drunken Boat*, *Versal*, *Certain Circuits*, *OmniVerse*, *Opon*, *Lightning'd Press*, *Moria*, *VLAK Magazine*, *Slope*, *SpringGun*, *Ping Pong*, *E-ratio*, *Xcp: Cross Cultural Poetics*, and the *Progressive*, among other places. He has collaborated and performed with various composers, including Philip Glass, and his cinépoetry has been exhibited in galleries and featured at film festivals in

Berlin, Chicago, New York, and elsewhere. He is the founder and director of the Chicago School of Poetics, holds an MFA in poetry from New England College, and is pursuing a PhD in English Studies at Illinois State University.

## About the ISU Department of English

**The Department of English at Illinois State University** is dedicated to providing an environment that facilitates the individual and communal work—creative, intellectual, administrative, and outreach—of our faculty, staff, and students. Our vision is guided by the University mission statement, Educating Illinois, and includes the following:

- Create a work environment that values all members as people and fosters positive morale and transparency where possible, acknowledges and honors the professionalism of all faculty, staff, and graduate assistants in our various roles, and recognizes the interdependence of our work through informal and formal discourse;
- Promote innovative and dynamic pedagogical research, scholarship, and practice in the classroom and the curriculum;
- Support—through reassigned time and co-teaching opportunities—interdisciplinary research and publication, while continuing to value the forms of research and publication that are appropriate to a particular field;
- Continue to articulate and revise a multi-dimensional understanding of English Studies that responds to the changing needs of our students, the field, and the world;
- Maintain our commitment to providing students with a learning environment and community that supports growth as a individual, professional, and citizen;
- Strengthen diversity in the composition of our faculty, students, and curricular and pedagogical approaches through individual, programmatic, and departmental action; and
- Secure the facilities and resources required to support excellence in scholarship, teaching, and research.

## About the ISU Creative Writing Program

Situated in a department that emphasizes interdisciplinarity, the **Creative Writing Program at Illinois State University** has a

distinguished and national reputation for encouraging alternative and hybrid forms of writing while emphasizing the study of theory and creative writing pedagogy. We are a program that respects and encourages innovation.

We offer both undergraduate and graduate courses. Our graduate program offers emphases in creative writing at both the MA and PhD levels and attracts students from all over the world.

## About the ISU LGBT/Queer Studies and Services Institute

Our mission is to promote equity and social justice for the LGBTQ community. This is critical to the University's mission to ensure a high-quality education for all students and a supportive and productive environment for all members of ISU's diverse community. This is achieved via its three main components: academic, campus student and personnel services, and community outreach. We serve our constituents by coordinating, publicizing, and supporting campus and community efforts related to LGBTQ people and their allies. We also link the campus community to relevant LGBTQ organizations, events, and initiatives on local, national, and international levels. Please contact us to let us know how we can assist you or to find out how to get involved at [lgbtq@ilstu.edu](mailto:lgbtq@ilstu.edu).

## About the ISU Women's and Gender Studies Program

A strong and viable **Women's and Gender Studies Program** is essential to the University's mission to provide a high-quality liberal arts education. Our undergraduate minor and graduate certificate programs enhance any major and prepare students to think critically about gender as they become global citizens who value lifelong learning and social justice.

**The Women's and Gender Studies Program** is a multidisciplinary community of scholars committed to a transformative analysis of gender as it intersects with class, sexuality, race, ethnicity, ability, age, nationality, and transnationality. We are engaged in innovative and collaborative scholarship, teaching, and service that promote new knowledge and socially responsible activism.

## About the ISU Ethnic Studies Program

Ethnic Studies is the study of race and ethnicity in U.S. and transnational contexts. Students and faculty in this area examine how social categories like race, indigeneity, culture, ethnicity, and nation are conceptualized.

We also familiarize ourselves with the experiences of the major population groups that make up the United States. We look at the specifics of these experiences as well as comparing them across groups. We are interested in both the contemporary world and how history has shaped it

The **Ethnic Studies Program** at Illinois State allows participants to examine regional, national, and global dimensions of these experiences. In particular, students take courses focusing on the history and contemporary dynamics of both the United States itself and of the countries outside of Europe (including the First Nations of the Americas) from which significant parts of our populations have emigrated or originated.

## About Liz Lerman's Critical Response Process

**Liz Lerman's Critical Response Process** is a widely recognized method that nurtures the development of artistic works-in-progress through a four-step method for facilitated group feedback that affords the artist an active role in the dialogue.

The Process engages participants in three roles:

The artist offers a work-in-progress for review and is prepared to question that work in a dialogue with others; responders, committed to the artist's intent to make excellent work, offer reactions to the work in a dialogue with the artist; and the facilitator initiates each step, keeps the process on track, and works to help the artist and responders use the Process to frame useful questions and responses.

After the presentation of artistic work, the facilitator leads the artist and responders through four steps:

- Statements of Meaning
- Artist as Questioner
- Neutral Questions
- Permissioned Opinions

## Special Thanks

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