

EMERGE—SURFACE—BE: 2022–23 FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM FOR EMERGING POETS

APPLICATION DEADLINE — Sunday, August 28, 2022 at 11:59PM
Selected 2022–23 Fellows will be notified in October

PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

Emerge–Surface–Be is a natural extension of The Poetry Project’s program offerings. It formalizes the distinct yet unspoken pedagogical aspect of The Poetry Project’s programs while providing a unique opportunity to support, develop, and present emerging NYC based poets of promise.

We are pleased this year to have support for five mentor/fellow pairings, and to be able to support writers working in a broader range of modes — including poetry, but also crossing into nonfiction, criticism, and performance. Mentors **Myung Mi Kim**, **Sawako Nakayasu**, **Evelyn Reilly**, **Ronaldo V. Wilson**, and **Simone White** will each select an emerging poet to work with. Over the course of nine months, Fellows will be given the opportunity to work one-on-one with their Mentor to develop their craft; explore publication and performance opportunities; and reflect on the professional and community-based dimensions of a writing life. Meetings between Fellows and Mentors can take place both in-person and virtually. Ideal Fellows will have a project they are working on or want to embark upon, and feel that they would benefit from guidance and support. Each Fellow will receive an award of \$2,500. In adherence with US tax requirements, ESB Fellows will be issued an IRS 1099 Form.

In addition to working with their Mentors, Fellows will have access to all Poetry Project events (free workshops, free readings, free publications) and be included in the Annual New Year’s Day Marathon Reading. Fellows will also read within The Poetry Project’s Monday or Friday Night Reading Series as a culminating event, with introductions made by their Mentors. Poetry Project staff and Mentors will work with each Fellow to find other unique opportunities for deepening, sharing, and connecting their poetry to specific goals the Fellows might have. Through the program, Fellows will be invited to attend various gatherings with Poetry Project staff and other 2022-23 Fellows and Mentors.

The most important criteria will be the demonstration of potential, as well as unique vision and voice, in the applicant’s work sample. While applicants who have achieved some measure of local, regional, or national professional recognition will have these merits taken into account, we equally welcome—and encourage—applications from individuals who may have not yet had highly visible or public opportunities to share their work.

Our definition of “emerging” ranges from writers who are just beginning to share their work publicly; to writers who have local and perhaps regional recognition; and up to writers who are approaching national exposure, though not yet national recognition. **As a top limit, an emerging writer has published no more than one full-length perfect bound book and no more than three chapbooks (not including self-published work in chapbook form)**

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- New York City resident at the time of application and have lived in NYC at least one year prior to the application deadline;
- Eighteen years of age and older;
- *Individuals enrolled in undergraduate and graduate degree-granting writing programs are not eligible.* However, individuals who enroll in degree-granting writing programs or take classes after the time of application submission are eligible for Fellowships providing they maintain an active, professional practice of creating and presenting work to the public.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

- Project description, including project goals and long-term artistic goals;
- Work Sample:
 - Seven to ten (7-10) page sample of project manuscript **OR**
 - Seven to ten (7-10) pages of prior work;
- Creative resume and bio;
- Optional video clip or mp3 of applicant reading

The Poetry Project is a poet-run, nonprofit arts organization committed to countering institutional barriers through expanded access to poetry. We welcome applications from all candidates regardless of educational background and encourage applicants of all experiences, education backgrounds, system-involvement backgrounds, races, ethnicities, gender and sexual identities, documentation statuses, and disability statuses to apply.

Please email esbfellowship@poetryproject.org with questions.

MENTOR BIOS:

Myung Mi Kim is the author of *Civil Bound* (Omnidawn), *Penury* (Omnidawn), *Commons* (University of California), *DURA* (Sun and Moon, Nightboat Books), *The Bounty* (Chax Press), and *Under Flag* (Kelsey St. Press), winner of The Multicultural Publisher's Exchange Award of Merit. Her work has been anthologized in *Moving Borders: Three Decades of Innovative Writing by Women*, *Premonitions: Kaya Anthology of New Asian North American Poetry*, *American Hybrid: A Norton Anthology of New Poetry*, *American Poets in the 21st Century: The New Poetics*, and other collections. Magazine and journal publications include appearances in *Hambone*, *Sulfur*, *Conjunctions*, *How(ever)*, *Poetry*, *Interval(le)s: CIPA (Centre Interdisciplinaire de Poétique Appliquée)* and *Cross-Cultural Poetics*. She has received fellowships and honors from the Fund for Poetry, the Djerassi Resident Artists Program, Gertrude Stein Awards in Innovative North American Poetry, and the State University of New York Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activity. Kim was born in Seoul, Korea and immigrated to the U.S. at the age of nine. She is the James H. McNulty Chair of English at the University at Buffalo.

Sawako Nakayasu is an artist working with language, performance, and translation – separately and in various combinations. Her books include *Some Girls Walk Into The Country They Are From* (Wave Books), *Pink Waves* (forthcoming, Omnidawn), and *The Ants* (Les Figues Press). She is co-editor, with Eric Selland, of an anthology of 20th Century Japanese Poetry (forthcoming, New Directions). She teaches at Brown University.

Evelyn Reilly is a poet, scholar, and environmentalist. Her books include *Styrofoam*, *Apocalypso* and *Echolocation*, all published by Roof Books. Her poetry has appeared in many anthologies and was recently included in the *Feral Atlas: The More-than-Human Anthropocene*, a multimedia compendium of work by scientists, thinkers, poets and artists. She is a member of the Steering Committee of the climate activist group 350NYC.

Ronaldo V. Wilson, PhD, is the author of *Narrative of the Life of the Brown Boy and the White Man*, winner of the Cave Canem Prize; *Poems of the Black Object*, winner of the Thom Gunn Award for Gay Poetry and the Asian American Literary Award in Poetry; *Farther Traveler: Poetry, Prose, Other*, finalist for a Thom Gunn Award for Gay Poetry; and *Lucy 72*. His newest books are *Carmelina: Figures* and *Virgil Kills: Stories*. Wilson is Professor of Creative Writing and Literature at U.C. Santa Cruz, serving on the core faculty of the Creative Critical PhD Program; principal faculty member of CRES (Critical Race and Ethnic Studies); and affiliate faculty member of DANM (Digital Arts and New Media).

Simone White is the author of the collections *or, on being the other woman*, *Dear Angel of Death*, *Of Being Dispersed* and *House Envy of All the World*. She teaches at the University of Pennsylvania.