

EMERGE—SURFACE—BE: 2020-21

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM FOR EMERGING POETS

APPLICATION DEADLINE — Sunday, August 16, 2020 at 11:59PM
Selected 2020-21 Fellows will be notified in September

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 this year -- including poetry, but also crossing into nonfiction, criticism, and performance. Mentors **Hannah Black**, **Farnoosh Fathi**, **Ariel Goldberg**, **Wayne Koestenbaum**, and **John Yau** 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. 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. Fellows will be invited to attend gatherings with Poetry Project staff and other 2020-21 Fellows and Mentors. Poetry Project staff and Mentors will also work with each Fellow to find other unique opportunities for deepening, sharing, and connecting their poetry to specific goals the Fellows might have.

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:

- Writers currently based in New York City, or who can document New York City residency as of January 2020; this residency requirement change is intended to respond to NYC artists who have temporarily relocated due to COVID-19 and economic impact in 2020;
- 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:

Hannah Black is a writer and artist. She is the author of two little books, *Dark Pool Party* (2016) and *Life* (with Juliana Huxtable, 2017). She has written for a number of publications including *Artforum*, *Bookforum* and *The New Inquiry*. Her self-scripted performance works include *Or Life Or* (MoMA PS1, 2017, with Soraya Lutangu and Ebba Fransén Waldhör) and *Penumbra* (Performance Space, 2019, with Juliana Huxtable). Recent exhibitions include *Ruin/Rien* at Arcadia Missa (2020) and *Dede Eberhard Phantom* at Kunstverein Braunschweig (2019).

Farnoosh Fathi is the author of *Great Guns* (Canarium, 2013), editor of *Joan Murray: Drafts, Fragments, and Poems* (NYRB Poets, 2018) and founder of the Young Artists Language and Devotion Alliance (YALDA). She lives in New York and has taught at The Poetry Project, Poets House, Columbia University and Stanford Online High School.

Ariel Goldberg's publications include *The Estrangement Principle* (Nightboat Books, 2016) and *The Photographer* (Roof Books, 2015). Goldberg's writing has most recently appeared in *Afterimage*, *e-flux*, *Artforum*, and *Art in America*. Goldberg currently teaches at City University of New York, Bard College, and Parsons, The New School. Their research and writing has been supported by the New York Public Library, the Franklin Furnace Fund, SOMA in Mexico City, and Smith College. They have been a curator at The Poetry Project, the Leslie-Lohman Museum of Art, and the Jewish History Museum in Tucson, Arizona. Their novel in progress, *A Century*, is based on the romantic and creative partnership of the art critic Elizabeth McCausland and photographer Berenice Abbott.

Wayne Koestenbaum—poet, critic, novelist, artist, performer—has published twenty books, including *Figure It Out*, *Camp Marmalade*, *My 1980s & Other Essays*, *The Anatomy of Harpo Marx*, *Humiliation*, *Hotel Theory*, *Circus*, *Andy Warhol*, *Jackie Under My Skin*, and *The Queen's Throat* (nominated for a National Book Critics Circle Award). His first book of short fiction, *The Cheerful Scapegoat*, will be published by Semiotext[e] in April 2021. This year he received an American Academy of Arts and Letters Award in Literature. His literary archive is in the Yale Collection of American Literature at Yale's Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library. He is a Distinguished Professor of English, French, and Comparative Literature at the City University of New York Graduate Center. Find him at www.waynekoestenbaum.com.

John Yau is a poet, critic, fiction writer, publisher of Black Square Editions, and one of the founders of the online magazine, *Hyperallergic Weekend*. His recent books of poems include *Further Adventures in Monochrome* (Copper Canyon, 2012) and *Bijoux in the Dark* (Letter Machine Editions, 2018). His next book of poem, *Genghis Chan on Drums* is forthcoming from Omnidawn (Fall, 2021). He is the author of monographs on Thomas Nozkowski, Richard Artschwager, Jasper Johns, Catherine Murphy, A.R. Penck, and William Tillyer, as well as many catalog essays. His latest books include selections of essays, *The Wild Children of William Blake* (Autonomedia, 2017) and *Foreign Sounds or Sounds Foreign* (MadHat, 2020). He has received awards and fellowships from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, National Endowment of the Arts, Academy of American Poets, New York Foundation of the Arts, Ingram Merrill Foundation and the General Electric Foundation. He received the 2017 Jackson Award in Poetry. He is Professor of Critical Studies at Mason Gross School of the Arts (Rutgers University) and lives in New York.