

EMERGE—SURFACE—BE: 2024-25

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM FOR EMERGING POETS

APPLICATION DEADLINE — Friday, August 30, 2024 at 11:59PM

Selected 2024-25 Fellows will be notified in October 2024

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.

The Poetry Project is grateful for the Jerome Foundation's generous support, which makes it possible to host five Mentor/Fellow pairings in 2024–25. This year we are thrilled to partner with Mentors who are working across a broad range of modes—including poetry, but also crossing into nonfiction, criticism, and performance.

Mentors **Amelia Bande**, **Morgan Bassichis**, **t'ai freedom ford**, **Rainer Diana Hamilton**, and **Marwa Helal** 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.

In addition to working with their Mentors, Fellows will:

- + have access to all Poetry Project events (free workshops, free readings, free publications)
- + be included in the Annual New Year's Day Marathon Reading
- + 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 2024–25 Fellows and Mentors.

Each Fellow will receive an award of \$2,500. In adherence with US tax requirements, ESB Fellows will be issued an IRS 1099 Form.

CRITERIA

Ideal Fellows will have a project they are working on (or want to embark upon) and/or are working towards new ways of envisioning and bringing forth their writing practice and feel that they would benefit from guidance and support.

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 (**please note: due to funding guidelines from the grant providers of the ESB Fellowship, we are unfortunately unable to accept submissions from applicants who do not meet this eligibility requirement**)
- + 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 (**no longer than 350 words max**) including project goals and 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, races, ethnicities, religions, gender and sexual identities, ability statuses, ages, veteran statuses, and any other categories protected by applicable law to apply.

Please email our Communications Director, Will Farris wf@poetryproject.org with questions.

2024-25 MENTOR BIOS

Amelia Bande is an artist, writer and performer from Chile living in Brooklyn. She uses text and visuals to create live capsules of intimacy and low-fi musicals. Her solo and collaborative work has been shown at Artists Space, The Poetry Project, Storm King Arts Center, Participant Inc., BOFFO Performance Festival, EFA Project Space, Human Resources LA and more. She's been an artist in residence at Shandaken Projects, Yaddo, Fire Island Artist Residency, Human Resources and McDowell. She was co-editor of *Critical Correspondence*, an online publication of Movement Research. Her plays *Chueca* and *Partir y Renunciar* were published in a Spanish-English bilingual edition by Sangría Editora in 2012. Belladonna Collaborative released her 2017 chapbook *The Clothes We Wear*. A sound archive of her early performances was released by Infinito Audio in Chile. She's currently Writer in Residence at NYU's Creative Writing Program in Spanish.

Morgan Bassichis (they/them) is a comedian and writer who has been described as “fiercely hilarious” by *The New Yorker*. They are the author of *The Odd Years* and co-editor with Jay Saper and Rachel Valinsky of *Questions to Ask Before Your Bat Mitzvah*, both published by Wendy's Subway. Recent shows include *Can I Be Frank?* (La MaMa, 2024), *A Crowded Field* (Abrons Arts Center, 2023), *Questions to Ask Beforehand* (Bridget Donahue, 2022), and *Don't Rain on My Bat Mitzvah* (Creative Time, 2021). Morgan's exhibition, *More Little Ditties*, was co-presented by the Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts at Harvard University and the Institute for Contemporary Art at Virginia Commonwealth University.

t'ai freedom ford is a New York City high school English teacher and founder of the POWERHOUSE Residency. Her poetry, fiction, and essays have appeared in *Apogee*, *Bomb Magazine*, *Calyx*, *Drunken Boat*, *Electric Literature*, *Gulf Coast*, *Kweli*, *Tin House*, *Poetry* and others. Her poetry has been anthologized in *A Body of Athletics* edited by Natalie Diaz, *The Break Beat Poets: New American Poetry in the Age of Hip-Hop*, *Nepantla: An Anthology of Queer Poets of Color* and others. t'ai has received awards and fellowships from Café Royal Cultural Foundation, Cave Canem, Camargo Foundation, The Center for Fiction, Community of Literary Magazines and Presses, Martin House Creative Residency, Kimbilio, New Literary Project, New York Foundation for the Arts, and The Poetry Project. In 2019, t'ai became a Jerome Hill Artist Fellowship inaugural fellow. She is the author of two poetry collections, *how to get over* from Red Hen Press and *& more black* from Augury Books, finalist for the 2021 Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award, Claremont Graduate University, finalist for the 2020 Hurston-Wright Legacy Award, and winner of the 2020 Lambda Literary Award for Lesbian Poetry. t'ai lives and loves in Brooklyn where she is an editor at *No, Dear Magazine*.

Rainer Diana Hamilton is the author of *God Was Right* (Ugly Duckling Presse 2018) and *The Awful Truth* (Golias Books 2017). They write, broadly, about the forms that dreams, art, and love have taken.

Marwa Helal is a poet and journalist. She is the author of *Ante body* (Nightboat Books, 2022), which was a finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Prize, *Invasive species* (Nightboat Books, 2019), the chapbook *I AM MADE TO LEAVE I AM MADE TO RETURN*, (No Dear, 2017) and a Belladonna chaplet (2021). She has been awarded fellowships from the Whiting Foundation, the Hawthornden Foundation, New York Foundation of the Arts, Jerome Foundation, Poets House, and

Cave Canem, among others. Helal is the winner of *BOMB Magazine's* Biennial 2016 Poetry Contest, selected by Bhanu Kapil. Her work has appeared in numerous publications including *The Paris Review*, *POETRY Magazine*, *Boston Review*, and *Best American Experimental Writing 2018*. She has presented her work at the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), the Studio Museum in Harlem, Brooklyn Museum and the Guggenheim Museum. Born in Al Mansurah, Egypt, she currently lives in the United States. She received her MFA in creative nonfiction from The New School and her BA in journalism and international studies from Ohio Wesleyan University.

Cedar Sigo is a poet and member of the Suquamish Tribe. His books include *Guard the Mysteries* (lectures) and most recently *All This Time* (poems) both from Wave Books. He lives in Lofall, Washington.

Cedar Sigo is a poet and member of the Suquamish Tribe. His books include *Guard the Mysteries* (lectures) and most recently *All This Time* (poems) both from Wave Books. He lives in Lofall, Washington.