

EMERGE—SURFACE—BE: 2021-22

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM FOR EMERGING POETS

APPLICATION DEADLINE — Sunday, August 15, 2021 at 11:59PM
Selected 2021-22 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 **Anaïs Duplan, Steph Gray, Celina Su, Stacy Szymaszek, and Asiya Wadud** 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. Fellows will be invited to attend gatherings with Poetry Project staff and other 2021-22 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:

- 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:

Anaïs Duplan is a trans* poet, curator, and artist. He is the author of upcoming book *I NEED MUSIC* (Action Books, 2021), a book of essays, *Blackspace: On the Poetics of an Afrofuture* (Black Ocean, 2020), a full-length poetry collection, *Take This Stallion* (Brooklyn Arts Press, 2016), and a chapbook, *Mount Carmel and the Blood of Parnassus* (Monster House Press, 2017). He has taught poetry at the University of Iowa, Columbia University, Sarah Lawrence College, and St. Joseph's College. His video works have been exhibited by Flux Factory, Daata Editions, the 13th Baltic Triennial in Lithuania, Mathew Gallery, NeueHouse, the Paseo Project, and will be exhibited at the Institute of Contemporary Art in L.A in 2021. As an independent curator, he has facilitated curatorial projects in St. Louis, Chicago, Boston, Santa Fe, and Reykjavík. He was a 2017-2019 joint Public Programs fellow at the Museum of Modern Art and the Studio Museum in Harlem. In 2016, he founded the Center for Afrofuturist Studies, an artist residency program for artists of color, based at Iowa City's artist-run organization Public Space One. He works as Program Manager at Recess.

Steph Gray is a poet-filmmaker whose work often experiments with language, exploring the experience of urban space, feminism, queerness, (dis)ability and class, and is the author of seven poetry collections, including Lambda Literary Award finalist *Shorthand and Electric Language Stars* (Portable Press @ Yo-Yo Labs, 2015), the chapbooks *Words Are What You Get/You Do It For Real* and *Go Under the Surface* (above/ground press, 2019 & 2018), *A Country Road Going Back in Your Direction* (Argos Books, 2015), *Place Your Orders Now!* (Belladonna, 2014), and *I Thought You Said It Was Sound/How Does That Sound* (PPYYL, 2012). Gray's super 8 films have screened internationally, including retrospective screenings at Anthology Film Archives, San Francisco Cinematheque, Microscope Gallery, and Mono No Aware, and critical work on poetics is on Jacket2.org.

Celina Su's writing includes *Landia* (Belladonna*, 2018), two poetry chapbooks, three books on the politics of social policy and civil society, and pieces in the *New York Times Magazine*, *n+1*, *Harper's*, and elsewhere. Su is the Marilyn J. Gittell Chair in Urban Studies and a Professor of Political Science at the City University of New York.

Stacy Szymaszek is the author of six books, most recently, *Famous Hermits* (Archway Editions, 2021). Szymaszek was the Hugo Visiting Writer at the University of Montana-Missoula 2018-19, Poet-in-Resident at Brown University, Visiting Poet for the Fire Island Artist Residency, and the recipient of a 2019 Foundation for Contemporary Arts grant in poetry. She has been a three time mentor for Queer Art Mentorship, and she founded the ESB program during her tenure as The Poetry Project's director (2007-2018).

Asiya Wadud is the author of *Crosslight for Youngbird, day pulls down the sky/ a filament in gold leaf* (written with Okwui Okpokwasili), *Syncope* and *No Knowledge Is Complete Until It Passes Through My Body*. Her recent writing appears in *e-flux journal*, *BOMB Magazine*, *Poem-a-Day*, *Chicago Review*, *Social Text*, *FENCE*, and elsewhere. Asiya's work has been supported by the Foundation Jan Michalski, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council (River to River: Four Voices 2020; Governors Island Arts Center residency 2019-2020; Process Space 2017), Danspace Project, Brooklyn Poets, Dickinson House, Mount Tremper Arts, and the New York Public Library, among others. She lives in Brooklyn, New York where she teaches poetry at Saint Ann's School, Columbia University, and Pacific Northwest

College of Art.