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For Immediate Release

Mass Poetry Presents: The 2023 Massachusetts Poetry Festival

What: The Massachusetts Poetry Festival
When: May 5 - 7, 2023
Where: Salem, Massachusetts
Who: 150+ poets perform, lead workshops, and share their work, live and in-person
How: Visit festival.masspoetry.org for ticketing and more information

The Massachusetts Poetry Festival—a lively biennial celebration that showcases an all-star roster of poets—returns May 5–7, 2023. Following a virtual Festival in 2021, this year’s literary fete marks the first in-person Festival since 2018. “The Festival brings together poets from Massachusetts and beyond, showcasing the diversity, vibrancy and power of contemporary poetry. We are especially grateful to come together in Salem, once again,” stated M.P. Carver, Mass Poetry’s Festival Director.

Hosted by Mass Poetry, this year’s Festival will feature headline poets **Cameron Awkward-Rich, Mahogany L. Browne, Franny Choi, Katie Farris, Kimiko Hahn, Ilya Kaminsky, Matthew Olzmann, January Gill O’Neil, Mosab Abu Toha**, and more. The Festival will offer poetry readings, workshops, panels, multi-genre performances, and a special performance by the **Boston Typewriter Orchestra**. Featuring more than 75 events and 150 poets, this year’s Festival will take place at the Peabody Essex Museum (PEM) and a host of other Salem venues in partnership with Salem State University, the City of Salem, and other key partners.

On display at the PEM, festival attendees will discover a **poetry quilt created by artist, activist and poet L’Merchie Frazier**. Mass Poetry tapped Frazier to create this collaborative art piece featuring lines of poetry from nearly 200 poets, work collected during the pandemic and published in Mass Poetry’s “Hard Work of Hope” series. This collective piece will give attendees the chance to come together as a community, to collectively grieve and move forward with new hope.

On May 6th and 7th, the Festival will host a first-ever Teen Poetry Track curated, in part, by Mass Poetry’s Teen Council. This will include several interactive and multi-genre events, such as the creation of a mural, a poetry showcase, and a teen poetry slam featuring several Massachusetts teams. All teens are welcome, free of charge. This year’s Festival is open and accessible to everyone with tickets available by suggested donation, pay-what-you-can, and free for various groups. **Registration is open now at festival.masspoetry.org.** Tickets can also be purchased in-person at the Festival headquarters at PEM.

About Mass Poetry:

Launched in 2008 with the inaugural Massachusetts Poetry Festival, Mass Poetry envisions a world where poetry catalyzes connection and understanding. From our in-school poetry residencies to innovative community programs, we aim to build a vibrant, inclusive community that lifts all voices. Mass Poetry serves as an arts-partner-in-residence at Grub Street’s Center for Creative Writing. Learn more at www.masspoetry.org.

Mass Poetry • c/o GrubStreet • 50 Liberty Drive • Suite 500 • Boston, MA 02210
masspoetry.org • facebook.com/masspoetry • [@masspoetry](https://twitter.com/masspoetry)





Massachusetts Poetry Festival Facts Sheet

May 5-7, 2023

Downtown Salem, MA

festival.masspoetry.org



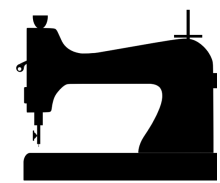
Headline Readings

Cameron Awkward-Rich * Mahogany L. Browne * Franny Choi * Katie Farris * Kimiko Hahn * Ilya Kaminsky * Matthew Olzmann * January Gill O'Neil * Mosab Abu Toha

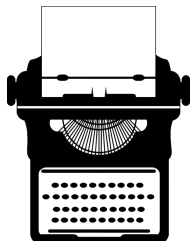
Select Events:

- ❖ **Poetry in Concert:** The Musi-Poesia of Los Lorcas
- ❖ **Writing from Your Life** without Being Self-Centered. The "I" Poem
- ❖ **Self-publishing via Zines, Chapbooks & Broadsides**
- ❖ **Aspanfut:** Re-discovering Language through the Ukrainian Avant-Garde
- ❖ **Contemporary Ukrainian Poetry** in Translation
- ❖ **Now As a Mother:** In the Presence of Loved Ones with Alzheimer's
- ❖ **We Were Never Meant to Survive:** Poetry of Witness to Womanhood
- ❖ **Collaborating from Within & Without:** How a member-run press expands access to visually impaired writers & others
- ❖ **Massachusetts Poet Laureate**
- ❖ **Jewish Poets of Western MA**

Additional Programming:



Poetry Quilt



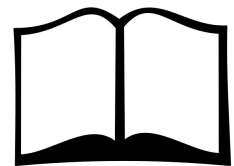
Boston Typewriter
Orchestra



Poetry & Pets



Poetry & Dance



Teen Track/Slam

Become A Sponsor:



Volunteer:



Register for the Festival:

