

jo reyes-boitel

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Poet and playwright

EDUCATION

University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley
MFA – Creative Writing, anticipated graduation 2023
Recipient of the Presidential Research Fellowship, 2021-2023
Teaching Assistant and Graduate Research Assistant, 2022 to present

University of Texas at San Antonio
BA, American Studies, 2007

- Focus on ethnic music expressions within dominant culture

Select Community-based Courses

- Libretto Writing Workshop, 6 week course, Guerrilla Opera, with instructor actor, director, and artist teacher Geovonday Jones. Summer 2021.

PUBLICATIONS and PERFORMANCES

Books

- playing with fire, Next Page Press, forthcoming, November 2023.
- mouth, chapbook, Neon Hemlock Press, 2021.
- Michael + Josephine, a novel in verse, Flowersong Press, 2019.

Select Anthologies

- “far flung heart”, “Cheo”, “pocket abuela”, “place setting”, and “landlocked,” What They Leave Behind: A Latinx Anthology, Vanessa Chica Ferreira, editor/publisher, 2021.
- “not even in sleeping,” Good Cop/Bad Cop, FlowerSong Press, 2021.
- “inheritance.” Imaniman: Poets Writing in the Anzaldúan Borderlands, Aunt Lute Books, 2016.
- “paper walls”, “far flung heart”, and “dark mother.” Dismantle, a VONA/Voices of Our Nations anthology, Thread Makes Blanket, 2014.

Select Journal and Print Publications

- “all along”, The Body zine, forthcoming, 2023.
- “flint” and “my brother the pragmatist.” Huizache Magazine, 2022.
- “Flashes.” Zócalo Public Square, curated by Rodney Gomez, 2022.
- “mirada desde el retrovisor”, “anoche me mató un hombre”, “lo que se requiere para la sobrevivencia” and “reminiscencia.” Translations by Violeta Orozco. Nueva York Poetry Review, 2021.
- “bitter oranges.” NYU’s Intervenxions, 2021.

- “we think this world is ours” and “what is required in survival.” riverSedge, 2021.
- “attachment style” and “aubade : wildness.” Switchgrass Review, 2021.
- “hot house flower”, “what could not be fully visible within the weight of this body?”, and “The Contradictive Nature of a Queer Mother Trying to get Laid.” OyeDrum, 2021.
- “chicharras.” With curated music playlist. Scalawag Magazine, 2019.

Select Performances and Productions

- “she wears bells” : Featured guest artist. Produced and live streamed with Palo Alto Community College’s Teatro Palo Alto. 2020. Named Finalist at Guerilla Underground Virtual Opera Festival, May 2022.
- “she wears bells” : Jump-Start Performance Co.’s INKubator-invited guest artist; creator, production lead, and librettist for the operetta, including team development. Produced and recorded streaming event. (2020)
- “Cascara | this body” : one-woman performance piece at W-I-P (Work In Progress), at Jump-Start Performance Co. (2019)
- “This is a Manifesto” : workshop participant, script development, and performance under Virginia Grise at Jump-Start Performance Company (2018)
- “Nahual” : one act play, written and directed for World Theater Day, one night only live performance at Palo Alto Community College, 2014.
- “Poet” : character in “Art is Luminaria” short film by Ya’Ke Smith/Exodus Filmworks (2012), <https://vimeo.com/41258002>

Select Recent Readings

- Queer Voices. Sponsored by Pride Center San Antonio and Esperanza Peace and Justice Center, San Antonio, TX, June 2022.
- National Poetry Month Reading, Dustin M. Sekula Memorial Library, Edinburg, TX, featuring Julieta Corpus, Priscilla Celina Suárez, with hosts Emmy Pérez and Carolina Monsiváis, April 2022.
- The Macondo Writers Workshop, featuring Natalia Treviño, Kay Ulanday Barrett, Reggie Scott Young, and Sandra Cisneros, with emcee Urayoán Noel, April 2022.
- RGV Queer Reading, featuring ire’ne lara silva and Cesar L. de León, sponsored by Valley AIDS Council, August 2021.
- “Living Our Dichos” featured poet for the Mexican American Bar Association at their annual scholarship and community gala, Dallas, TX, July 2021.
- Pride Reading, featured reader for South Texas College, McAllen, TX, June 2021.
- Poets Know IT, BAAD! Bronx, March 2021.
- MPP/Remain in Mexico Policy Vigil, featured poet, January 2020.
- Dignidad Literaria & Mitote, an AWP event featuring 40+ Latinx authors reading in small groups. March 2020.
- Queer Voices, AWP off-site reading, sponsored by Esperanza Peace & Justice Center, San Antonio, TX, March 2020.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

University Teaching

- Cross-genre Writing, Undergraduate Course, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, Fall 2022.

- Introduction to Creative Writing, Undergraduate Course, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, Spring 2023.

Editor

- Independent Editor, working one-on-one with new and experienced writers in poetry, hybrid work, or fiction. Also, line edits and revision work to prepare work for publication.
- Writing & Hybrid Works Editor, OyeDrum Magazine (2022 - present)
- Advisory Editor, FlowerSong Press: critique of initially-accepted manuscripts, assist with copy editing, manuscript development, and/or design. Authors have been finalists for regional awards and statewide awards (2019 - present)
 - Marisol Cortez, Luz at Midnight, winner of the Sergio Troncoso Award for Best First Book of Fiction, Texas Institute of Letters, 2020.
 - Raul Sanchez (forthcoming)
 - Esteban Rodriguez, Limbolandia (forthcoming)
 - Amy Shimton-Santo, Catastrophic Molting (forthcoming)
 - Sonia Gutierrez, Dreaming with Mariposas, winner of the Tomás Rivera Book Award: Words for Older Readers, 2021.
 - Leticia Urieta, Las Criaturas, 2021.
 - Andrea “Vocab” Sanderson, San Antonio Poet Laureate, She Lives in Music, 2019.
- Guest Editor, Red Salmon Arts: providing one-on-one mentorship for one to two writers annually, from draft manuscript to published work (2021 to present)
 - Mauricio Novoa, Memorias from the Beltway, 2021.
 - Barrio Writers anthology, (forthcoming) 2022 – copy editor

Select Speaker and Symposium Presenter Engagements

- Panelist, “Naming/Reclaiming as Praxis: The Role of Artists Toward Decoloniality”, NACCS Tejas Foco, 2023.
- Panelist, “The Coyolxauhqui Imperative: Feeding the Compulsion to Create Embodied Art,” El Mundo Zurdo, 2022.
- Panelist, “Latina Feminist Aesthetics”, UTRGV Women’s History Month, 2022.
- Featured Poet, “Living Our Dichos”, Mexican American Bar Association of Dallas, 2021.
- Panelist, “Queering Turtle Island”, Peoples’ Poetry Festival, 2020.
- Moderator, “Writing in the RGV: Identity and Community Attainment”, Gemini Ink Writers’ Conference, 2019.
- Featured Author, Valley International Poetry Festival, 2019.
- Panelist, “Interdisciplinary Queer Writers”, Gemini Ink Writers’ Conference, 2019.
- Panelist, “A Mestizaje of Forms: Mixed-Genre Writing as a Reflection of 21st Century Paradigms”, Gemini Ink Writers’ Conference, 2018.
- Panelist, “Title: Testimonio, Relationships, and Mythic Realities in El Mundo Zurdo: New Fiction and Poetry from Queer Tejana Writers”, El Mundo Zurdo conference, 2018.

Podcast and Radio

- OyeDrum podcast with host Hilary Davies, May 2021. <https://oyedrum.com/podcast/>
- Your Artsy Girl podcast with host Cristina Querrer, April 2019. <https://yourartsygirlpodcast.com/episodes/episode-10-jo-reyesboitel-s1!99e8b>
- Nuestra Palabra radio show, hosted by Tony Diaz, April 2019.

Select Workshops, Facilitation and Development

- “Conjuring Ghost Words to Deepen Your Poetry” writing workshop with Write About Now, 2022.
- “Cultivating Fields: an introduction to poetry”, a short 4-session workshop for the new or returning poet that looks at ways into new work, what to consider, and how to build community; with Gemini Ink, 2021.
- “Notes to Gilgamesh”, month-long writing workshop around oral traditions and the novel in verse. Participants discovered techniques and tools needed to create their own novel in verse; with Gemini Ink, 2020.
- “Caesura”, monthly workshop at Gemini Ink, taught for community over 6 months, addressing silence and action around issues of racism, sexism, homophobia, and migration, 2018.

Community Event Organizing

- This City is a Poem (2016 – 2019), Co-Founder. Annual National Poetry Month initiative providing daily poetry writing prompts, community writing workshops, and readings. Graphics creation, social media posting, event planning, artist cultivation, poet outreach.

Book Reviews

- Leslie Contreras Schwartz, Black Dove/Paloma Negra, Cutthroat: A Journal of the Arts, 2020.

Book Blurbs

- Virgil Suarez, Amerikan Chernobyl, Q-ZINE/Contagioso Press, 2023.
- Violeta Orozco, The Broken Woman Diaries, Andante Books, 2022.
- Leticia Urieta, Las Criaturas, FlowerSong Press, 2021.
- Keriann Gilson, places I never want to see again, Gnashing Teeth Press, 2021.

Recent Work Experience

- Office Manager, RAICES, San Antonio, TX, 2019-2021.
- Position Control Specialist, Human Resources, San Antonio Independent School District, San Antonio, TX, 2016-2019.
- Senior Administrative Associate, Department of Public Administration, University of Texas at San Antonio, San Antonio, TX, 2007-2016.

Skills

- Grant writer and database management. Nonprofit management.
- Graphic work experience.
- Bilingual (Spanish and English – read, write and speak).
- Music researcher.

Awards and Recognition

- “she wears bells”, Finalist, Guerilla Underground Virtual Opera Festival, 2022.
- Alfredo Cisneros Del Moral Foundation award winner, granted by Sandra Cisneros, 2001.
- Macondo fellow, 2021.

- VONA/Voices of our Nation fellow, 2005-2017.

REFERENCES

ire'ne lara silva : irenelarasilva@yahoo.com, 512.783.0994

Edward Vidaurre : editor@flowersongpress.com, 956.739.2206

Lilia Rosas : lrosas@utexas.edu, 737.444.0707

AREAS OF STUDY

Latinx, Latina, Cuban, Chicana, queer, LGBTQ+, family, sexuality and kink, gender, alternative relationships, migration, chronic illness, fat politics, differently abled, crip poetics, community engagement and community building, poetry, writing, Cuba, Mexico, Latinx diaspora, first generation dynamics, working class dynamics, writing workshops, journaling, novels in verse, creative writing creation and critique, BIPOC, feminist, queer theory.