

MFA GRADUATE PRESENTATION

MARIA SURRICCHIO
JANUARY 14, 2025

many thanks

Scott Korb, Jennifer Scanlon, Rana Tahir, Emily & the unstoppable interns

Kwame Dawes, Ellen Bass, Mahtem Shiferraw, Shara McCallum

Dorianne Laux, Danusha Laméris, Joe Millar, Tyree Daye

Lailah Shima, Sarah Sullivan, Paul Telles

2024 Graduates: Sydnie, Lynn, Chopsy, Sara, Rita & Lauren ('26)

Jennifer Franklin & HVWC

POEM

“June”

What do we mean by “form”?

“A poem comes right with a click like
a closing box.”

—W. B. Yeats

POEM

“Survival Essentials”

FORM



form

“A poem is alive, it uses you to get itself written, spoken, to get its wisdom to cross from the unknown to the known ... and its primary current, to do all this, is formal.”

—Jorie Graham

“The rules and adherence are not the achievement of a poem. It’s how the poem works that matters.”

—Kwame Dawes

“Always position the writing within experience—tough and unsentimental.”

—Kwame Dawes

POEMS

“Origin Story”

“The New Beauty”

“It is our task to imprint this temporary perishable earth in ourselves so deeply... its essence can rise again. We are the bees of the invisible. We wildly collect honey of the visible to store it in the great golden hive of the invisible.”

—Rainer Maria Rilke

“Get your camera in closer...be selective.
Remember detail and description, those
are the tools that will evoke emotion in
the reader.”

—Ellen Bass

POEM

“Notes on Recovery”

"A POWERFUL WORK OF LYRIC ART."
—NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW

FELON



POEMS



REGINALD DWAYNE BETTS
WINNER OF THE NAACP IMAGE AWARD

“fractured poetics”

“approach each poem with caution,
approach each poem like you don’t know
what it’s trying to say, and let it speak to
you from its deep, unhinged place.”

—Mahtem Shiferraw

POEMS

“Sons, I love you in a basket”

“No Word I Know”

INTIMACY & FAITH

“the primacy and power of narrating the individual life to access the larger quest for meaning.”

—Shara McCallum

POEMS

“Impossible Numbers”

“Lilac by the House”

What do we mean by “form”?

POEM

“Housekeeping Essentials”

grazie mille