

MICHELLE MITCHELL-FOUST



Michelle Mitchell-Foust is the author of the poetry books *Circassian Girl* (nominated for a Pulitzer Prize) and *Imago Mundi* (both from Elixir Press), as well as the poetry chapbooks *Poets at Seven* (Sutton Hoo Press) and *Exile* (Sangha Press). Her book *The Five Dreams of the Body* was published in Chinese and serialized for publication by T & K Publishing, and her book *Alluvial Heart* was also published in Chinese by James Publishing Company. She co-edited with Tony Barnstone the two anthologies *Poems Dead and Undead* and *Monster Verse*, by Knopf/Everyman Press in 2014 and 2015, respectively. Michelle was the winner of an NEA grant, the Elixir Press Poetry Prize, the Nation/"Discovery" Award, the Columbia University Poetry Prize, a Writers At Work Fellowship, the Missouri Arts Council Biennial Award, two University of Missouri-Columbia Creative Writing Fellowships, and an Academy of American Poets Prize. Her works have been widely anthologized, and individual poems have appeared *Poetry*, *The Nation*, *The Washington Post*, *Antioch Review*, *The Colorado Review*, and elsewhere. She is a contributing editor for *The Drizzle Review*, and an affiliate faculty member at Oregon State University.

TONY BARNSTONE



Tony Barnstone is a poet, translator, editor, and writer of fiction. *Tongue of War* (2009) won both the John Ciardi Prize and the Grand Prize in the Stokestown International Poetry Festival. Barnstone has published several other poetry collections, including *Pulp Sonnets* (2015); *Beast in the Apartment* (2013); *The Golem of Los Angeles* (2007), which won the Benjamin Saltman Award in Poetry; *Sad Jazz: Sonnets* (2005); and *Impure* (1999), a finalist for both the Walt Whitman Prize and the National Poetry Series. He has published numerous translations, including *River Merchant's Wife* (2013), *Chinese Erotic Poems* (2007), *The Anchor Book of Chinese Poetry* (2005), and *Laughing Lost in the Mountains: Selected Poems of Wang Wei* (1992). His own work has been translated into Arabic, Chinese, German, and Spanish. Barnstone has published several textbooks on world literature as well, including *Literatures of Asia* (2002), *Literatures of the Middle East* (2002), and *Literatures of Asia, Africa and Latin America* (1999). His honors include fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the California Arts Council, as well as a Pushcart Prize, the Paumanok Poetry Award, the Randall Jarrell Poetry Prize, the Sow's Ear Poetry Contest, the Milton Dorfman Poetry Prize, the Pablo Neruda Prize, and the Cecil Hemley Award. Barnstone has lived in China, Kenya, and Greece. He currently resides in California, where he is the Albert Upton Professor and Chair of English at Whittier College. He often reads with the poet, professor, and scholar Willis Barnstone (his father), and the Poet Laureate of Missouri, Alike Barnstone (his sister).

SHOLEH WOLPÉ



Sholeh Wolpé is an Iranian-born poet, writer, and literary translator who has lived in Trinidad, the UK, and the US. Her literary work includes four collections of poetry, two plays, three books of translations, and three anthologies. Her most recent works are *The Conference of the Birds* (W.W. Norton & Co) and *Cómo escribir una canción de amor* (Olifante Ediciones de Poesía, Spain). She translated and edited *Sin: Selected Poems of Forugh Farrokhzad* (2007), which won the Lois Roth Persian Translation Award, and her anthology *The Forbidden: Poems from Iran and Its Exiles* was awarded the 2013 Midwest Book Award. Her Persian co-translation of Walt Whitman's *Song of Myself*, will be published in Iran. Her poetry collections include *Keeping Time with Blue Hyacinths* (2013), *Rooftops of Tehran* (2008), and *The Scar Saloon* (2004). Wolpé's poetry has been nominated several times for the Pushcart Prize, and in 2005 she received an Artists Embassy International's Peace through the Arts award. The Inaugural Author in Residence at UCLA in 2018, her other awards include a 2014 PEN Heim, 2013 Midwest Book Award and 2010 Lois Roth Persian Translation prize as well as artist residencies in the U.S., Mexico, Spain, Australia and Switzerland. Her new comedy, an adaptation of *The Conference of the Birds*, opens at The Ubuntu Theater in Oakland California in Nov. 2018. She has taught poetry and literary translation at the Stonecoast MFA program, has participated in numerous festivals including Dodge Poetry Festival, and sponsored international programs such as Same Gate in Turkey.

MARIANO ZARO



Mariano Zaro is the author of four bilingual books of poetry. His poems have been included in anthologies and literary journals in the US, Mexico, and Spain. He has translated the poets Philomene Long, Tony Barnstone, and Sholeh Wolpé, and he received the 2004 *Roanoke Review* Short Fiction Prize and the 2018 *Martha's Vineyard Institute of Creative Writing* Fiction Prize. Zaro hosts a series of video- interviews with prominent poets as part of the project Poetry.LA (www.Poetry.LA). Since 2016, he has served as a trustee of Beyond Baroque Literary Center in Venice. He is a professor of Spanish at Rio Hondo College.

RICK BURSKEY



Rick Bursky's most recent book, *I'm No Longer Troubled By The Extravagance*, is out from BOA Editions. His next book, *Where the Ocean Spills Its Grief*, is also forthcoming from BOA. He is an adjunct at the USC's Annenberg School.

CHRIS DAVIDSON



Chris Davidson was born and raised in Orange County, and he received his MFA in poetry from UC Irvine. His poems have appeared in several journals and anthologies, including *The Alaska Quarterly Review* and *Orange County: A Literary Field Guide*. A chapbook, *Poems*, appeared in 2012. He is a songwriter, guitarist, and singer for the rock band the Santiago Steps. With the artist Dan Callis, Chris co-created "Vision, Voice & Practice: An Interdisciplinary Class in Art and Creative Writing." He teaches at Biola University.

CALEY O'DWYER



Caley O'Dwyer is a poet, visual artist, and teacher living in Los Angeles. He teaches creative writing and psychology at Antioch University and was previously an Associate Professor in University of Southern California's Writing Program. His poems have appeared in *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Cream City Review*, *Hayden's Ferry Review*, *Warwick Review*, *Curator*, *Ekphrasis*, *Washington Square*, and other venues, including the Tate Modern Museum in London. He is a winner of an Academy of American Poets Prize, a three- time nominee for the Pushcart Prize, and a recipient of a Helene Wurlitzer grant for poetry. His book, *Full Nova*, was published by Orchises Press, and he is at work on two other poetry collections.

KRYSTAL STARR



Krystal Starr is a teacher, writer, and editor living and working in Los Angeles. She edited the *Greenleaf Review*, and has worked on a variety of film, theater, music video and web series productions.

SUZANNE LUMMIS



Suzanne Lummis is a poet, teacher, writer, editor, impresario. Her poems have appeared in *The Hudson Review*, *Antioch Review*, *Ploughshares*, *New Ohio Review*, *Plume*, *The American Journal of Poetry* and *The New Yorker*. Her most recent collection, *Open 24 Hours* (Lynx House Press) won the Blue Poetry Prize. Previous full-length collections include *In Danger* (Roundhouse Press/Heyday Books) and *Idiosyncrasies* (Illuminati). Suzanne edited *Wide Awake: Poets of Los Angeles and Beyond* (Pacific Coast Poetry Series/Beyond Baroque Books), noted in *The Los Angeles Times* as one of The Ten Best Books of 2015. She is the recipient of Beyond Baroque's fifth George Drury Smith Outstanding Achievement in Poetry Award. An influential teacher in Los Angeles, she leads private workshops and has taught for many years through the UCLA Extension Writers' program where she evolved courses in poetic craft, the persona poem, and the poem noir ("Poetry Goes to the Movies"). Lummis is the director of The Los Angeles Poetry Festival, which she founded with poet Sherman Pearl, and through which she produced nine citywide multi-literary events between 1989 and 2011.

GRANT HIER



Grant Hier is the inaugural Poet Laureate of Anaheim. His book *Untended Garden* was awarded Prize Americana, and nominated for both an American Book Award and the Kate Tufts Discovery Award. A new book, *The Difference Between*, was published in April, and a companion collection, *Similitude*, will be released on October 6, 2018. A book of historical flash fiction is forthcoming in February, 2019, co-written with the Poet Laureate of Sequoia and Kings Canyon Parks, John Brantingham. Grant has been awarded the Nancy Dew Taylor Prize and Kick Prize for poetry, and his poems have been anthologized in the books *Orange County: A Literary Field Guide* (Heyday), *Only Light Can Do That* (Rattling Wall / PEN), and *Monster Verse* (Knopf / Everyman). As a voice actor, he contributed to the audio book of George Saunders' *Lincoln in the Bardo*, which won the 2018 Audie Award for Audiobook of the year. More at www.granthier.com

CAROL LATHAM



Carol Latham is member of Altrusa International of Anaheim, part of an international organization dedicated to improving economic well-being and quality of life through a commitment to community services and literacy. She is the Community Outreach Coordinator for the Muzeo Museum & Cultural Center.