

UNIQUE ROBINSON

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EDUCATION

Masters in Fine Arts in English & Creative Writing - Poetry

Mills College, Oakland, CA
The Department of English
Graduate Assistantship (The Place for Writers)
Thesis Title: *Four Wings & A Prayer: A Charm City Churn*
Thesis Advisor: Elmaz Abinader

Bachelor of Arts

Hampshire College, Amherst, MA
Major: Creative Writing & African-American Studies
Division III Thesis: *nobody do that where we grew at: women of color voices seein' thru the soil*
Thesis Committee: Ellie Siegel, Paul Jenkins, Djola Branner
Student Commencement Speaker

GRANTS, AWARDS, HONORS, SCHOLARSHIPS, & FELLOWSHIPS

- 2021** **Independent Artist Award Panelist**, Maryland State Arts Council, Baltimore, MD
Writers Advisory Council, Hampshire College, Amherst, MA
Ginsburg Senior Poetry Contest, Juror, Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD
Mini Artist Grant, Baltimore Office of Promotion & the Arts, Baltimore, MD
- 2020** **Poetry Out Loud, Juror for Regional & State Finals**, Maryland State Arts Council, Baltimore, MD
- 2019** **The Grit Fund**, Baltimore Arts Realty Corporation, Baltimore, MD
- 2017** **Emerging Teaching Artist Award**, Arts Every Day, Baltimore, MD
- 2013** **Voices Of Our Nation's Arts (VONA), Writing Workshop Fellow**, Berkeley, CA
- 2012** **English Department Graduate Assistantship**, Mills College, Oakland, CA
- 2009** **Nuyorican Poets Café, Grand Slam Finalist**, New York, NY
WORD! Theater Festival, Honoree, New World Theater, Amherst, MA
Five College Poetry Festival, Honoree, Amherst, MA
Theater Board Committee, Hampshire College, Amherst, MA

Interdisciplinary Arts Department Hiring Committee, Hampshire College, Amherst, MA

2008 Cuban Union of Artists & Writers (UNEAC), International Exchange Student, Havana, Cuba

2006 College Unions National Poetry Slam, *Finalist*, San Marcos, TX
Slam Collective, *Finalist*, Hampshire College, Amherst, MA

2005 Arturo Schomburg Scholarship, Hampshire College, Amherst, MA
Robert L. Becker Class of 1943 Scholarship, The Pittsburgh Foundation, Pittsburgh, PA

AREAS OF EXPERTISE & SPECIALIZATION

Humanistic Studies, Critical Race Theory, Cultural Competence, Creative Writing Workshop, Poetry Workshop, Memoir, African-American Studies, 20th-21st Century African-American Music, 20th-21st Century African-American Literature, 19th-20th Century American History, Gender & Sexuality Studies, Arts-Integrated Pedagogy, Trauma-Informed Pedagogy

EXPERIENCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Towson University, Towson, MD | Adjunct Faculty

Fall 2021-Present

- Courses Taught: Graduate Poetry & Performance (MA Interdisciplinary Arts Fusion Department)
- Providing ongoing professional development for teachers, to assist in creating Arts-Integrated poetry & justice-centered lessons for their classrooms

Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD | Adjunct Faculty

Fall 2016-Present

- Courses Taught: Intermediate Poetry Workshop, Genre: Experiments (Creative Writing), Frameworks, & Academic Writing Workshop (Humanistic Studies Department), Creative Cultural Competence (MFA Community Arts Seminar II course)
- Responsible for creating sustainable & accessible syllabi, with sensitivity to multiple intelligences, abilities, & an intentionally multicultural range of texts
- Mentor for Korner Boyz Water Initiative with Office of Strategic Initiatives
- Creative Writing Minor Thesis Advisor in AY 2017 & AY 2022

RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

The Lyric Performing Arts Center, Baltimore, MD | Teaching Artist

January 2020-Present

- Lead Theater Teaching Artist for 17 middle schoolers at Franklin Square Elementary Middle School
- Provide weekly prompts for youth to collectively write and stage a production at The Lyric
- Directed youth in embodiment and theater rehearsals and exercises for production readiness

Leaders of Tomorrow Youth Center, Baltimore, MD | Poetry & Theater Instructor

July 2019–Present

- Taught weekly 90-minute Theater & Creative Writing workshops to 100 K–8th grade students at various Baltimore City & Prince George’s County schools
- Provide one-on-one arts, academic, and recreational mentorship to youth from Zone 17 in Summer 2019
- Facilitated a week-long theater intensive with high school youth from the Sandtown community, culminating in a youth-written production, *Harmony’s Breakthrough*

Arts Every Day, Baltimore, MD | Teaching Artist

February 2016–Present

- On-roster Arts-Integration Poetry Teaching Artist with Baltimore City Schools
- Assisting youth in making the connection between various subjects (visual arts & world history), using poetry as a tool to facilitate learning
- Increasing student literacy, engagement, & productivity of work in the classroom

Wide Angle Youth Media, Baltimore, MD | Middle School Coordinator & Lead Design Instructor

June–December 2018

- Managed and facilitated Wide Angle’s Baltimore Speaks Out Middle School programs
- Scheduled, created, and carried out collaborations with other organizations & schools
- Recruited students, maintained relationships with families, and developed curriculum
- Regularly updated paperwork and student contact sheets and other deliverables for funding

DewMore Baltimore, Baltimore, MD | Program Director & Operations Manager

July 2016–October 2017

- Secured \$77,000+ in fee-for-service Poetry Program contracts with Baltimore City & County Schools in the 2016–2017 & 2017–2018 school year
- Operated 12 OST (Out of School Time) Network Sites during the school year, as well as a 5-week Baltimore Summer Funding Collaborative-funded writing & theater program for youth
- Supervised a team of 10 professional Teaching Artists to facilitate successful year-long poetry programs & week-long poetry residencies
- Created monthly reports for the Board of Directors, detailing the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and potential threats of each site
- Successfully managed DewMore’s FY 2016 budget, and submitted prompt bi-weekly payment requests for teaching artists and community partners

DewMore Baltimore, Baltimore, MD | Teaching Artist

Oct 2015–Oct 2017

- Launched weekly social justice poetry clubs at Patterson High School & City Neighbors Hamilton Middle School
- Recruited students through canvassing, workshops, & forming relationships with teachers, students, and staff
- Instilled safe space and trust amongst students to openly discuss socio-emotional issues
- Expanded youth cognitive development, & civic engagement as community leaders

PUBLICATIONS & PROJECTS

GETCHA LIFE! EP (with MRDJXZ). Baltimore: blkottonkandy productions, 2021.

"Tha Concerto of Tha Desperado" Music Video. blkottonkandy productions, 2020.

Tha 27th Letter, Volume II: THA REMIX (with MRDJXZ). Baltimore: blkottonkandy productions, 2020.

Tha 27th Letter, Volume II: Soul Urge. Baltimore: blkottonkandy productions, 2020.

Foreword, *Fiber Catalog*, Baltimore: Maryland Institute College of Art, 2020.

Four Wings & A Prayer: A Charm City Churn. Baltimore: blkottonkandy press/Kindle Publishing, 2019.

"Would U Love Unconditionally?" Music Video. Baltimore: Raw Lens Productions, 2019.

Vesica Piscis EP. Baltimore: blkottonkandy Productions, 2019.

Tha 27th Letter, Volume I: Life Path. Baltimore: blkottonkandy productions, 2019.

four wings & a prayer: a mixtape of excerpts. Baltimore: Decker Zine Library, 2018.

"for chocolate cities that drank the kool-aid (when the cream was indigestible)", San Francisco Public Library, 2016.

"mistuh mason, miss dixon", *Blues Arrival: Stories of the Queer Black South & Migration*. Oakland: Black Castle Press, 2016.

flicked/forgotten/FREED. Oakland: blkottonkandy Press, 2014.

"I'll Kill the Bastard Who Says Hair Is Only Dead Skin." *The Reader*. Amherst: Hampshire College, 2006.

GUEST LECTURES

Intercultural Discourse Graduate Course (taught by Sukyun Lee),
Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA), Baltimore, MD

Advanced Poetry Workshop (substituting for Jennifer Wallace),
Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD

Ideas In the Arts (substituting for Hannah Brancato),
University of Maryland Baltimore County, Baltimore, MD

Poetry & Pedagogy Guest Lecture, Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA), Baltimore, MD

Where Light Enters You: Poetry as Catharsis (for Art in Other Spaces, taught by Dr. Kate Collins),
Towson University, Baltimore, MD

Pedagogy of Philosophy Graduate Course (taught by Hannah Brancato),

Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA), Baltimore, MD

Ethics Seminar Guest Lecture (taught by Ron K. Williams),

University of Baltimore, Baltimore, MD

PRESENTATIONS, WORKSHOPS, & PANELS

2020-2022

Community Gathering Workshop Series (Co-Facilitated with Shannon Ingram), Office of Strategic Initiatives, Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD

2021

"Contributions of Black Queer Artists in Baltimore" Panel (Moderator), Black Artists Fair, Black Arts District, Baltimore, MD

SmARTS Business Workshop, Leaders of Tomorrow Youth Center (with Youth Empowered Society), Baltimore, MD

"Nurture The Self: A Workshop for MFACA Graduate Students", Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD

"Peanuts, Corned Beef, and History: Lexington Market Community Storytelling Day."
The Peale Museum, Baltimore, MD

"What I Am, What I'm Not: A Creative Professional Development Training on Implicit Bias", Lamont Elementary School, New Carrollton, MD

"Teaching Arts as an Expression of Social Justice", Baltimore City Schools Education Rising Conference, Baltimore, MD

"Music & Movements" (A Professional Development Training For Teachers), Arts Every Day, Baltimore, MD

"Even if Your Voice Shakes': Poetry As Resistance" Artist Talk, MFAST Department, Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD

2020

Voice Articulation & Dramatic Appropriateness Masterclass, Poetry Out Loud (Maryland State Arts Council), Baltimore, MD

"Where Poetry Meets Identity: An Intersectional Lens" (A Professional Development Training for Teachers), Arts Every Day, Baltimore, MD

blkottonkandy Presents: "De'Capin: Healing the Black & Brown Superwoman Myth"
(A Virtual Wellness Conference), Baltimore, MD

"Healing 7 Generations Forward, 7 Generations Back" Juneteenth Workshop, Black Humboldt,
Humboldt, CA

Community Gathering for BIPOC+ Students, Staff, & Faculty (Co-Facilitated with Dr. Mel Lewis),
Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD

Community Gathering for Black Students, Staff, & Faculty (Co-Facilitated with Dr. Mel Lewis),
Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA), Baltimore, MD

"Thrive With Baltimore": A Professional Development Workshop (Co-Facilitated with Dr. Mel Lewis),
Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA), Baltimore, MD

"The Readback: An Intimate Reading & Talkback of *Four Wings & A Prayer*", Baltimore, MD

"Owning Our Voice": A Self-Publishing Author Panel, Baltimore Book Festival, Baltimore, MD

"Legally Queer: Representation in the Workplace", Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA),
Baltimore, MD

"Being Brown At Work" Panel, Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA), Baltimore, MD

"Unheard Voices", ArtsLab, Maryland Citizens for the Arts, The Gordon Center, Owings Mills, MD

"Healing Within & Without", FORCE: Upsetting Rape Culture Skillshare, *Facilitator*, Baltimore, MD

Giovanni's Room Writing Workshop, *Facilitator*, GLCCB (The Pride Center), Baltimore, MD

"Being Yourself in a PWI", Pearlstone Center, Maryland Institute College of Art's
Center for Identity & Inclusion Retreat, Reisterstown, MD

"#HowSway? 20th Century Policies & Their Effects on 21st Century Youth Organizing",
Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, CA

FEATURED POETRY & MUSICAL PERFORMANCES

2021

“Tha Flow State: hybridity, music, & poetics” Artist Talk, The Space for Creative Black Imagination, Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD

Underground Rainbow Presents: Femme Top, The Crown, Baltimore, MD

WYLDCHYLD Festival Juneteenth Celebration, The Ynot Lot, Baltimore, MD

MICA Juneteenth Festival Celebration, Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD

Queer Religion Exhibit, Eubie Blake Center, Baltimore, MD

2 Revs No Church Podcast Feature, Philadelphia, PA

2020

MakersLab Presents: Black in Space Virtual Event, Baltimore, MD & Washington, DC

4th Annual CM Ball, Baltimore, MD

Keep The Mic On Virtual Poetry Reading, Baltimore, MD & Washington, DC

MD Film Fest LGBTQ Virtual Pride After Party, Parkway Theater, Baltimore, MD

Sidewalk Serenades (as part of blkottonkandy), Creative Alliance, Baltimore, MD

2019

Opening Reception for Mickalene Thomas’ Exhibit, *A Moment’s Pleasure* (as part of blkottonkandy), Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, MD

“The Awakening: A Poetry Reading” (with Chezia Thompson & MICA Students), Terra Cafe, Baltimore, MD

Busboys & Poets’ 14th & V, Washington, DC

Alpha Female Fest, Medusa Lounge, Baltimore, MD

Blaqstarr Gassed & Electriq (as part of blkottonkandy), The Peale Museum, Baltimore, MD

FORCE: Upsetting Rape Culture’s Monument Quilt Display (as part of blkottonkandy), National Mall, Washington, DC

Tha Funktion (as part of blkottonkandy), The Crown Baltimore, Baltimore, MD

FORCE: Upsetting Rape Culture’s “Grown In Baltimore”, Whitelock Farm, Baltimore, MD

FORCE: Upsetting Rape Culture's Celebrating Black Victim-Survivors,
The Motor House, Baltimore, MD

2nd Annual Mind Your Wellness Conference, Dovecote Cafe, Baltimore, MD

Invisible Majority Presents: A/V Cart - A Multimedia Audio/Visual Show,
Creative Alliance, Baltimore, MD

2018

Pr3ssPlayPoets present: *The State of Black Bodies*, National Queer Arts Festival, Oakland, CA

2017

Busboys & Poets' 14th & V, Washington, DC

1st Annual Mind Your Wellness Conference, Indiginal Artspace, Baltimore, MD

Giovanni's Room LGBTQ+ Open Mic, GLCCB (The Pride Center of MD), Baltimore, MD

2016

Why Women Cry IX Conference, Baltimore, MD

Be Free Fridays, Eubie Blake Center, Baltimore, MD

Slammageddon Open Mic, Baltimore, MD

2015

SOMArts Gallery (as part of Pr3ssPlayPoets), San Francisco, CA

Pr3ssPlayPoets present: *The State of Black Bodies*, La Peña Cultural Arts Center, Berkeley, CA

Venus Rising Collective, Telegraph, Oakland, CA

Pr3ssPlayPoets present: *The State of Black Bodies*, Eastside Arts Alliance, Oakland, CA

Queer Fashion Week (as part of Pr3ssPlayPoets), Oakland, CA

Eastside Arts Alliance Block Party (as part of Pr3ssPlayPoets), Oakland, CA

2014

GoBaby! Comedy Productions Featured Poet, Oakland, CA

CultureF* Open Mic,** Show & Tell, Oakland, CA

Friday Night Out Series (as part of Pr3ssPlayPoets), Oakland, CA

2012

Sneakers 4 Success Showcase, New York NY

Unitarian Universalist Society Church, Manchester, CT

2011

Lyrical Revolt, Southpaw, Brooklyn, NY

"From Abortion Rights to Reproductive Justice" Civil Liberties & Public Policy Conference,
Hampshire College, Amherst, MA

University of Massachusetts Homecoming Poetry Jam, Amherst, MA

Queer Pride Month, New York University, New York, NY

Unitarian Universalist Annual Conclave, New York, NY

2010

3rd Annual Black August Arts Benefit, New York, NY

Bluestockings Bookstore, New York, NY

Rivers of Honey, WOW Café, New York, NY

2nd Annual Black August Arts Benefit, New York, NY