



# Revolutionizing Hearts and Minds

Conversations about Poetry at the Bay Area Book Festival

Saturday, April 28

11:45 - 1:00 **State Lines: New California Poets**

Aria Baniyas, MK Chavez, Vandana Khanna, Austin Smith, D.A. Powell

Against a backdrop of immense natural beauty, California's writers can't ignore the dissonance. Protests in the streets, unforgiving wildfires, homeless encampments, immigration raids, racial and sexuality based violence: in our idyllic state, the nation's social issues are an indisputable part of life. Join four emerging Californian poets who explore, in their dynamic verse, these very issues. They form a new generation that, like all things California, helps set terms for the country at large. Introduced by acclaimed poet and University of San Francisco professor D.A. Powell.

1:30 - 2:45 **Brenda Hillman and Geoffrey G. O'Brien: A Conversation**

Brenda Hillman, Geoffrey G. O'Brien, Rachel Richardson

What is the role of creative political resistance in a time of ascendant fascism? Historically, books, poems, and art have proven powerful enough to change the course of history. California poets Brenda Hillman and Geoffrey G. O'Brien discuss their new books and the critical function of art as activism. From the elegy to the love poem, from the individual to the collective, these poets will explore how words give us strength.

3:15 - 4:30 **Gary Snyder & Kim Stanley Robinson: Mt. Thoreau, Civil Disobedience, and Naming What Can't Be Named**

Gary Snyder, Kim Stanley Robinson, Laurie Glover, Jack Shoemaker

Legendary Zen poet (and Pulitzer Prize winner) Gary Snyder and his friend Kim Stanley Robinson, the renowned science fiction writer and environmentalist, had an adventure up their sleeve. They were going to hike up an unnamed peak in the Sierras near Mt. Emerson and christen it Mt. Thoreau. You aren't allowed to just name peaks, as Robinson wrote in an account of the adventure, "Is It Civil Disobedience to Name a Mountain for Thoreau?" They did the deed, despite what they felt surely

would have been Thoreau's disapproval. They come to us now to talk about civil disobedience, nature writing, the environmental movement, poetry, and naming what can't ultimately ever really be named. In conversation with Snyder's longtime publisher Jack Shoemaker of Counterpoint Press.

### 3:15 - 4:15 **The Poet's Calling: The Life & Works of Pablo Neruda**

Mark Eisner, Forrest Gander, Jessica Powell

Pablo Neruda was many things during his life: a Nobel Laureate, a diplomat, and a fugitive, but always at heart, a poet. This panel of translators has collectively devoted decades to examining and sharing the late poet's work. Mark Eisner's new biography, "Neruda: The Poet's Calling," is a definitive account of the Chilean poet's influence, called by Kirkus "new standard-bearer among Neruda biographies." Forrest Gander brought Neruda's recently discovered "lost poems"—written on napkins, receipts, and playbills—to life in his translated collection, which The Guardian called ""a literary event of universal importance."" Jessica Powell is responsible for the first-ever English translation of Neruda's third book of poems, "venture of the infinite man." Hear this unparalleled panel of experts as they raise Neruda's voice and discuss his prevailing legacy.

### 4:15 - 5:30 **Jabberwalking with Juan Felipe Herrera**

Can you walk and talk at the same time? How about Jabberwalk? Can you write and draw and walk and journal all at the same time? If not, you're in luck: Festival favorite and marvelous speaker Juan Felipe Herrera, former Poet Laureate of the United States, is here to teach you everything he knows about being a real-life, bonifide, Jabberwalking poet! While his new book is technically for kids, anyone can learn to jabberwalk—parents, older siblings, and grandparents who have some pep in their step! Jabberwalkers write and speak for themselves and others no matter where their feet may take them—to Jabberwalk is to be a poet on the move. And there's no stopping once you're a Jabberwalker, writing fast, fast, fast, scribble-poem-bubbles-on-the-run. Scribble what you see! Scribble what you hear! It's all out there — vámonos!

### 5:00 - 6:00 **Who's Your Muse?**

Victoria Chang, Tongo Eisen-Martin, Brittany Perham, David Roderick, Maw Shein Win

Poetry can be difficult for some readers to digest, with its interwoven layers of meaning, lyricism, rhythm, and context. Even more difficult to appreciate is how these poems come to be. Five poets come together to discuss the origins of their poems—energies they tap into and methods they use to get the right words into the right order. They'll talk about how they handle writers block and how they know when a poem is heading in the most fruitful direction. Perhaps they'll also share some writing prompts that will help you find your own source of inspiration.