

## ***Thick as Mud: A poetic response* Author Biographies**

*Thick as Mud: A poetic response* is the [Interpretive Guide](#) publication for the *Thick as Mud* exhibition, February 04, 2023 — May 07, 2023 at the Henry Art Gallery.

### **Editor**

**Jourdan Imani Keith** Seattle's 2019 – 2022 Civic Poet is a Pushcart nominated author. Featured in *Forbes* and on *NPR*, her *Orion Magazine* essays, "Desegregating Wilderness" and "At Risk" appear in the *Best American Science and Nature Writing Anthology*, as well as text books. The founder of Urban Wilderness Project, she leads its R U An Endangered Species™ Women and Whales First: Poetry in a Climate of Change campaign. A recipient of the 2022 US Water Alliance Outstanding Artist prize and a 2018 Americans for the Arts award, her TEDx Talk, *Your Body of Water* became the theme for King County's 2016-2018 Poetry on Buses program. Her essays and poems are in *Prairie Schooner*, *Terrain*, *Cosmonaut*, *YES magazine* and *Seismic*.

<https://urbanwildernessproject.com/>

### **Contributor Writers**

**Roberto Ascalon** teaches across the Northwest. He is a Kundiman, Jack Straw, Artist Trust fellow and Seattle's 2013 Poet Planner. Ascalon won the Rattle Poetry Prize for the poem "The Fire This Time, or, How Come Some Brown Boys Get Blazed Right Before Class And Other Questions Without Marks."

**Aleyda Marisol Cervantes** is a self-identified third-world woman living in occupied Coast Salish territory. She is a TEDx presenter and an advocate for immigrant communities. Her work appears in *PALABRITAS*, *Acentos Review*, and *We Need a Reckoning*. She dreams of living in Coyoacan and owning the most wonderful bookstore.

<https://aleydamarisol.wordpress.com/>

**Amber Flame** is an artist, writer, and performer whose work has garnered artistic merit residencies with Hedgebrook, Wa Na Wari, Vermont Studio Center, and more. Flame served as the 2017-2019 Writer-in-Residence at Hugo House, and is a queer Black dandy mama who falls hard for a jumpsuit and fresh kicks.

<https://www.theamberflame.com/>

**Rasheena Fountain** is a published essayist and poet from Chicago, whose work focuses on Black environmental memory. She is a PhD student in English at the University of Washington, where she attained an MFA in Creative Writing. Fountain's forthcoming memoir will be published with Chin Music Press in spring 2024.

<https://www.rasheena fountain.com/>

**Kamna Shastri** is a writer and a community journalist. Kamna's professional and creative work grapples with questions of identity, belonging, environmental, and social justice topics as they relate to this

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region. Poetry has been a lifelong form of creative processing and expression for Kamna.

<https://kamnashastri.wordpress.com/>

**Savannah Smith** loves highlighting interconnectedness and enjoys evoking catharsis through a variety of creative activities and vulnerable conversations. She finds excitement and expansion in trying new things, is passionate about fostering curiosity, illuminating opportunity, and engaging the heart. Savannah is also the Co-founder and Director of Youth Engagement for Sea Potential.

**Ebony Welborn** lives a life that makes humans and non-humans alike feel seen, heard and valued. Using her intuitive and empathic nature, she shares her love for discovering forms of interconnectedness with others. This is embodied within her artistic expression and the creation of Sea Potential.