

October 20, 2016

**“Colonization of the Eye: A Troubling of Identity, Performance, and Projection”**

***A multi-media, multi-genre discussion of identities in relationship to artistic performance, audience projection, and notions of artistic craft presented by***

***Princeton’s Program in Creative Writing***



Photo caption: Poet Natalie Diaz, a 2015-2016 Hodder Fellow in the Lewis Center for the Arts, will lead a multi-media, multi-genre discussion of identities in relationship to artistic performance, audience projection, and notions of artistic craft at Princeton.

Photo credit: Cybele Knowles

What: “Colonization of the Eye: A Troubling of Identity, Performance, and Projection,” a multi-media, multi-genre discussion of identities in relationship to artistic performance, audience projection, and notions of craft

Who: Led by poet and 2015-16 Princeton Hodder Fellow Natalie Diaz, featuring poet Christian Campbell, poet and visual artist Rachel Eliza Griffiths, and poet Roger Reeves

When: Wednesday, October 26 from 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Where: James M. Stewart ’32 Theater at 185 Nassau Street in Princeton, NJ

Free and open to the public

(PRINCETON, NJ) Four poets are coming together at Princeton University for a multi-media, multi-genre discussion entitled “Colonization of the Eye: A Troubling of Identity, Performance, and Projection.” Presented by the Lewis Center for the Arts’ Program in Creative Writing, Natalie Diaz will lead the discussion alongside the critically-acclaimed poets Christian Campbell, Rachel Eliza Griffiths, and Rogers Reeves as they explore identities in relationship to artistic performance, audience projection, and notions of artistic craft. The panel will take place on Wednesday, October 26 at 4:30 p.m. in the James M. Stewart ‘32 Theater at 185 Nassau Street. The event is free and open to the public.

**Natalie Diaz** is a poet and a teacher at the Institute of American Indian Arts Low Rez M.F.A. program. She is Mojave and currently directs the Fort Mojave Language Recovery Program, where she works to revitalize the Mojave language. Her awards include the Bread Loaf Fellowship, the Holmes National Poetry Prize awarded by Princeton, a 2015-16 Princeton Hodder Fellowship, a PEN/Civitella Ranieri Foundation Residency, and a U.S. Artists Ford Fellowship. She is a Lannan Literary Fellow as well as a Native Arts Council Foundation Artist Fellow. Her first poetry collection, *When My Brother Was an Aztec*, was published in 2012, and she is currently working on her second collection.

**Roger Reeves** is a poet and an assistant professor of poetry at the University of Illinois, Chicago. His poetry been published in journals such as *Poetry*, *Ploughshares*, *American Poetry Review*, *Boston Review*, and *Tin House*. His awards include a 2013 NEA fellowship, a 2013 Pushcart Prize, a 2008 Ruth Lilly fellowship by the Poetry Foundation, two Bread Loaf Scholarships, an Alberta H. Walker Scholarship from the Provincetown Fine Arts Work Center, and two Cave Canem fellowships. He was also a 2014-15Hodder Fellow at Princeton. Reeves’ first book of poetry, *King Me*, was published in 2013 by Copper Canyon Press. He is currently working on a collection of poems entitled *The Last American Minstrel*, which explores nineteenth-century minstrel songs, folk traditions, and slavery through verse.

**Christian Campbell** is a Trinidadian-Bahamian poet and an assistant professor of English at the University of Toronto. His poetry collection *Running the Dusk* was awarded “best first collection” at the Aldeburgh Poetry Festival in Suffolk, U.K. Campbell’s work has been published in journals such as *The Caribbean Writer, Calabash, Atlanta Review*, and the *International Poetry Review*, among others. Raised in the Bahamas, Campbell explores Caribbean and Black Diaspora literature and cultures through his poetry.

**Rachel Eliza Griffiths** is a poet and visual artist. Her most recent collection of poetry, *Lighting the Shadow*(Four Way Books, 2015) was a finalist for the 2016 Phillis Wheatley Book Award in Poetry and the 2015 Balcones Poetry Prize. Griffiths’ literary and visual work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *Callaloo*, *American Poetry Review*, *Guernica*, *Lit Hub,* and *Transition*. A Kimbilio and Cave Canem Fellow, Griffiths has received fellowships from Yaddo, the Provincetown Fine Arts Work Center, the Millay Colony, and the Vermont Studio Center. Currently, Griffiths teaches creative writing at the Institute of American Indian Arts and Sarah Lawrence College.

The Program in Creative Writing hosts a number of readings, panels, and lectures throughout the year, including the Althea Ward Clark W’21 Reading Series held on select Wednesdays at the Berlind Theatre at McCarter Theatre Center. Upcoming guests include Stephen King, Eileen Myles, Paul Beatty, Marilyn Chin, Douglas Kearney, Kirstin Valdez Quade, John Ashbery, and Jim Jarmusch. The program also hosts The C.K. Williams Reading Series, which presents a public showcase for the work of creative writing thesis students and provides the senior class the opportunity to read with and learn from established writers they admire. In October 2017, the Lewis Center for the Arts will again host the biennial Princeton Poetry Festival, which brings poets across the globe together to share and celebrate the art of poetry.

For more information on the Program in Creative Writing and the more than 100 other events offered each year by the Lewis Center for the Arts, visit [arts.princeton.edu](http://www.arts.princeton.edu).

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