



Airea D. Matthews

Associate Professor of Creative Writing

Bryn Mawr College

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aireadee.com

📁 SELECTED HONORS AND AWARDS

2023

- Academy of American Poets Poet Laureate Fellowship

2022

- Poet Laureate of Philadelphia 2022-2023

2020

- Christian R. Lindbach Award for Distinguished Teaching, May 2020
- Pew Fellow, January 2021-January 2022

2018

- *Poets and Writers*, Innovative Poets to Watch, January 2018

2017

- Margaret Walker *For My People* Award

2016

- Yale Series of Younger Poets Winner
- Rona Jaffe Foundation Writers Award
- Louis Untermeyer Scholar in Poetry, Bread Loaf Writers Conference

2015

- Kresge Literary Arts Fellow
- Pushcart Prize Nominee

2014

- Cave Canem Fellow

📁 EDUCATION

2011 - 2013

University of Michigan Helen Zell Writers' Program
Master of Fine Arts in Poetry

Zell Merit Fellow

2002 - 2003

University of Michigan Ford School of Public Policy
Master in Public Administration

Rackham Merit Fellow

1991 - 1994

University of Pennsylvania
Bachelor of Arts in Economics

📁 WORK EXPERIENCE

05/2022 - Present

Associate Professor of Creative Writing | Co-Chair of Creative Writing Department

Bryn Mawr College

- Teach intermediate and advanced-level undergraduate creative writing courses each year in poetry and a secondary genre
- Co-directs the Creative Writing Program, including the annual Reading Series
- Authored and directs the pedagogy and curriculum for poetry
- Serve across several College committees

08/2021 - Present

Visiting Professor and Scholar

Rutgers University | Institute for the Study of Global Racial Justice and the Poets and Scholars Summer Writing Retreat

- Developed an antiracist, genre-free workshop model deployed by the annual Poets and Scholars Retreat, the MFA program at Camden, and

- *Best New Poets* Nominee
- Pushcart Prize Nominee

2013

- Pushcart Prize Nominee
- Callaloo Fellow

2012 and earlier

- Cave Canem Fellow | 2012
- Michael R. Gutterman Poetry Prize | Hopwood Award | 2012
- Rackham Merit Fellow | Helen Zell Writers' Program | University of Michigan | 2011
- Women of the World Poetry Slam, Runner Up | 2010
- National Organization of Women, Special Recognition Award | 2010
- Women of the World Poetry Slam, 3rd Ranked | 2008
- Detroit Grand Poetry Slam Champion | 2008
- Rustbelt Regional Poetry Slam Champion, Individual Competition | 2008
- Rackham Merit Fellow | Ford School of Public Policy | University of Michigan | 2002



Pew Fellowship



Brave Testimony Reading at U...

JUROR/JUDGE

July 2021 - October 2021

among the Institute's postdoctoral fellows

- Teach a graduate-level, craft-focused creative writing worktable
- Facilitate discussions on craft and critical analysis

07/2017 - 05/2022

Assistant Professor of Creative Writing | Director of Poetry

Bryn Mawr College

- Teach beginning/intermediate or advanced-level undergraduate creative writing courses each year in poetry and a secondary genre
- Teach critical thinking and college-level seminar courses for first-year students
- Co-administer the Creative Writing Program, including the annual Reading Series
- Direct the pedagogy and curriculum for poetry

07/2019 - Present

Graduate Faculty

Warren Wilson MFA Program for Creative Writers

- Teach graduate-level, craft-focused creative writing to 3 students each semester
- Facilitate discussions remotely on craft and critical analysis
- Deliver lectures and craft workshops at bi-annual residency

05/2015 - 10/2016

Assistant Director

University of Michigan, The Helen Zell Writers' Program

- Manage the program budget and gifts of \$750K per year
- Establish internal processes to evaluate against benchmarks
- Manage marketing initiatives and the Zell Visiting Writers' Series
- Cultivate community relationship for program support and development and for establishing a professional network for graduate students

09/2014 - 05/2015

Lecturer

University of Michigan, Department of English Language and Literature

- Taught a 3:3 load of Rhetoric and Argumentation
- Designed the course "Writing, Politics and Culture" as the foundation of Rhetoric and Argumentation

05/2013 - 05/2014

Zell Fellow

University of Michigan, Helen Zell Writers' Program

Words without Borders and Academy of American Poets Translation Prize

Judge

Judge for a global
translation prize

- Organized and led community writing workshops during cross-country poetry tour

EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

11/2018 - 2021

Contributing Editor

ontheseawall.com

- Regularly contribute reviews and new work

10/2014 - 04/2016

Co-Executive Editor

The Offing, a channel of the Los Angeles Review of Books

- Co-led and managed March' 15 launch
- Managed two departments and content delivery
- Delivered timely and audience-targeted content
- Responsible for fundraising \$10K goal

PUBLISHED WORK

FULL-LENGTH COLLECTIONS

May 2023

Bread and Circus

BREAD AND CIRCUS REVIEWS

Publisher's Weekly

The Poetry Foundation

The Washington Post

The Irish Times

The Poetry Book Society (UK)

March 2017

Simulacra, 2016 Winner of the Yale Series of Younger Poets Award, Yale University Press

SIMULACRA REVIEWS

The New Yorker

The Washington Post

The Rumpus

Publisher's Weekly

American Microreviews

Tupelo Quarterly

POETRY

2023:

January 2021 - April 2021

Sandy Crimms Poetry Prize

Philadelphia Stories

Judged a national writing prize

May 2020 - 2022

Pen America

Literary Awards Committee

Select the literary judges for Pen America award seasons

2018 - 2019

Yale Younger Series

Reader for Carl Phillips

Reader for one of the most prominent literary prizes in U.S.

Apr - 2019

Platypus Press

Judge for Broken River Prize

Judge for an international chapbook contest

Nov - 2018

PEN America

Judge for Pen/Osterweil Award

Judge for national poetry contest

Oct - 2018

Red Bull House of Arts

Interdisciplinary Juror for International Art Residency

- "The Water Mothers" | Visual Collaboration with Laylah Amatuallah Barryn | ADI Magazine
- "Anna Mae's Woodlawn Baptist Choir Director" | Poetry Foundation
- "The Ancestors School a Basic Bitch" | Poetry Daily
- "The Broke Diet," "Ain't No Snitch" | *Poetry Ireland*

2022:

- "Subtext for Troubled Times," "elemental" | *Mosaic Literary Magazine*
- "Eviction," "nostalgia," "Purblind," "The Troubles," "Severance," "elegy for the moaner, 2016" | *Georgia Review* Winter issue
- "On Making An Essential Nigga" | *Obsidian*
- "Legacy" and "Ars Poetica, 1979" | *Last Call, An Anthology on Addiction and Loss* | Sarabande Books
- "Meeting Anne Sexton," | *Zoeglossia* Poem of the Week January 2022

2021:

- "At The Worktable: A Praxis for Approaching an Antiracist Standard of Care in Criticism" | Institute for the Study of Global Racial Justice at Rutgers University
- "Ars Poetica, 1979" "Ars Poetica, 2019" "Mayfly" | *Virginia Quarterly Review*
- "9am Working Class Bedtime Story" | *Gulf Coast*
- "If Ain't Is: An Essay on Gertrude Stein and My Grandmother" | *The Poet Speaks Anthology*

2020:

- "American Ouroboros" | *Night Heron Barks* | Summer 2020
- "Inherited Divide" | *Zocalo Public Square* | August 2020

2019:

- "American Conjunctions" | *On the Seawall* | Winter 2019
- "Logical Disjunction" | *Tin House* | Spring 2019
- "Letters to My Children on Time-Dependent Effects and Attention" | *Los Angeles Review of Books* | Spring 2019
- "Etymology" | www.poets.org | Poem of the Day May 2019
- "Black Ecstatic Ode" | *Michigan Quarterly Review* and *Lithub* | Summer 2019

2018

- "When Can We Expect Payment" | *Cortland Review* | Spring 2018
- "House Nigga's Clean Finish" | *Callaloo* | Summer 2018

2017

- "Con (the remix)" | *The Rumpus* | January 2017
- "Sekhmet's Conceit" "Pious" | *The Harvard Advocate* | Spring 2017
- "Closed Captioning for the Black Animus" | *Cordite Review* | Winter 2017
- "Temptation of the Composer" | www.poets.org Academy of American Poets

2016

- "Descent of the Composer" | www.poets.org (Poem of the Day)
- "Confessions from Here" (reprinted from Academy of American Poets), "On Meeting Want Next Time," "Letters to My Would-Be Lover on Dolls and Repeating" | *Callaloo*

Responsible for identifying artists for the Red Bull Residency in Detroit

January - 2018

Poetry Society of America

Judge for Robert H. Winner Award

Judge for national poetry contest

SUMMARY

Airea D. Matthews's first collection of poems, *Simulacra*, received the 2016 Yale Series of Younger Poets Award (Yale University Press, 2017). Her work has appeared in *Harper's Bazaar*, *The New York Times*, *The Best American Poets*, *American Poets*, *The Rumpus*, *Four Way Review*, *Lithub*, *Michigan Quarterly Review*, and elsewhere.

For her writing, Matthews earned a 2020 Pew Fellowship as well as the 2017 Margaret Walker *For My People* award. In 2016, she received both the Rona Jaffe Foundation Writers' Award and the Louis Untermeyer Scholarship in Poetry from the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference. She received the 2020 Christian Lindbach Distinguished Teaching Award at Bryn Mawr College.

She received her B.A. in Economics from the University of Pennsylvania, her M.P.A. from the University of Michigan Ford School of Public Policy, and her M.F.A. from the University of Michigan Helen Zell Writers'

- "[Confessions from Here](#)" | www.poets.org (Poem of the Day)

2015

- "Gryllacidadae" | *The Volta*
- "If My Late Grandmother Were Gertrude Stein" | *Best American Poetry*
- "[Sexton Texts from a Bird Conservatory](#)," "Confessions from Here" | *American Poet*
- "[Sexton Texts on Independence Day](#)," "Sexton Texts During Polar Vortex" | *Four Way Review*

2014

- "-Icity" | *Vinyl*
- "[Prelude](#)," "[Hero\(i\)n](#)" | *Muzzle*
- "Positive Curvature," "Black Hole Observed Over Time" | *The Indiana Review*
- "[Narcissus Tweets](#)" | *The Baffler*
- "March 1969" | *Women's Studies Quarterly*
- "[Swindle](#)" (online poem of the week) | *Missouri Review*
- "If My Late Grandmother Were Gertrude Stein" | *KINFOLKS*
- "Letters to My Would-Be. . ." | *Callaloo*

INTERVIEWS

2017-Present

- [Poetry Off the Shelf](#) | July 2023
- [Living Writers WCBN](#) | June 2023
- [Free Library of Philadelphia Writer's Series](#) | June 2023
- [Two Poet Laureates PBS Newshour](#) | November 2022
- [Interview with WHYY](#) | August 2022
- [Black Hauntology Interview with Jonah Mixon Webster](#) | August 2021
- [Interviewing Arisa White on Whose Your Daddy](#) | June 2021
- [VS. Poetry Foundation](#) | September 2020
- [Poetry Extension](#) | August 2019
- [Divedapper](#) | April 2018
- [Commonplace](#) | December 2017
- [LoveBlackGirls.com](#) | December 2017

FLASH NON-FICTION/ESSAYS

2023

- "[Barbie Taught Me The Power of Play](#)" | *Harper's Bazaar* | July 2023
- "[The Magical Space Where Fun Is Every Child's Birthright](#)" | *The New York Times* | July 2023
- "Echoes of Plato's Dialogue in Sexton Texts Poems" | *Personal Best Critical Anthology*

2019

- "On Sister Solidarity" | *Era of Ignition: Coming of Age During a Time of Revolution and Rage* | Crown Publishing | March 2019

2014

- "[The Cost of The Floss](#)" | *Michigan Quarterly Review*

Program. Ms. Matthews is working on her third collection and is busy developing a global artist residency in Sicily, Italy.

- "The Cross or The Pill" | *Michigan Quarterly Review*
- "Meeting Wittgenstein at The Playscape" | *Michigan Quarterly Review*
- "Animalia Repeating" | *Michigan Quarterly Review*
- "The Case of the Disaporic Haints" | *Michigan Quarterly Review*

2013

- "The Dentist's Wife." "The Dog Whisperer's Wife," "The Mine Owner's Wife" | *SLAB*

POETRY REVIEWS

2014

- *Dear Lil Wayne* by Lauren Ireland | *Scout Poetry*
- *Patter* by Douglas Kearney | *Scout Poetry*

PRODUCTION CREDITS/APPEARANCES

FEATURED ARTIST

2015

"Dead of Winter Non Sequitur," Directed by Cass Corridor Films

2014

Roadtrip Nation, PBS

2008-2010

Poetry Slam Inc., Women of the World

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER/ARTIST

2009

Venus Disrobed (Performed Poetry Collection), Directed by Steve Coy

LECTURES/PANELS

2021-2023

University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine

"Addiction, Trauma, and Obsession in Writing"

Texas Book Festival

"Traversing the Racial Periphery"

Favorite Poets Favorite Poet Teaching Series

"The Legacy of Margaret Walker"

Poetry Foundation Secondary Teacher Training | Miami, FL

"Managing Conflict using a Worktable Model"

Rutgers University Inaugural Poets and Scholars Retreat | New Brunswick, NJ

"At The Worktable: A Praxis for Approaching a Standard of Care in Criticism"

Rosemont College | Rosemont, PA

"Sense Age of Sight: Visual/Textual Collaborations in the High-Tech Age"

Arizona State University | Tempe, AZ

"Transtextuality as a Future"

2019

Warren Wilson College | Asheville, NC

"Sense Age of Sight: Visual/Textual Collaborations in the High-Tech Age"

Library of Congress | Washington, DC

"Afrofuturist Thought"

2018

Oakland University | Rochester, MI

"The Apollonian Poem"

Paul Robeson Museum | Philadelphia, PA

"The Apollonian Poem and the Black Imagination"

New York University | NY, NY

"Orr and The Four Temperaments of Poetry"

Poets House NYC | NY, NY

"Orr and The Four Temperaments of Poetry" for *Winter Tangerine*

2017

Jackson State University

"Yale and The Legacy of Margaret Walker"

2016

University of Michigan Writing Race Series

"I'll Take That: Cultural Appropriation in Creative Work"

2014

Poetry and Pie Series, Rochester, NY

"The Non-Sequitur and Poetry"

Pink Door Womens' Writing Retreat, Rochester, NY

"Get Free: Negative Capability in Poetry"

2013

University of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA

"The Hardest Part: Narrative in Poetry"

2010 and earlier

Women of the World Poetry Slam, Detroit, MI and Columbus, OH

"Getting Ugly on Stage"

Oakland County Community College, Auburn Hills, MI

"Bare Bones: The Use of Voice and Psychological Gesture in Performance Poetry"

Detroit Womens' Economic Council, Detroit, MI

"Freeing the Mind: Incarcerated Women and the Arts"

Oakland County Community College, Royal Oak, MI

"Getting Naked on Stage: Performing and Escaping Inhibitions"

Prison Creative Arts Linkage Conference, Ann Arbor, MI

"Performing Art"

National StopMax Conference, Philadelphia, PA

"Art as a Means of Struggle and Survival"

INVITED READINGS/CONVERSATIONS

2023:

- Free Library of Philadelphia in Conversation with Reginald Dwayne Betts
- Free Library of Philadelphia in Conversation with Tariq "Black Thought" Trotter
- Free Library of Philadelphia in Conversation with Safiya Sinclair
- Milton Academy, Milton, MA
- The Phillis Wheatley Poetry Festival, Jackson, MS
- Brooklyn Book Festival, Brooklyn, NY
- Texas Book Festival, Austin, TX
- Poetry Foundation, Chicago, IL
- University of Michigan Gerald Ford School of Policy, Ann Arbor, MI
- Parkway Council, Philadelphia, PA
- Aspen Institute, Washington, DC
- Free Library of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA
- Harvard Bookstore, Cambridge, MA
- Greenlight Bookstore, Brooklyn, NY
- London Review of Books, London, UK
- Midtown Scholar Bookstore, Harrisburg, PA
- The Room Project, Detroit, MI
- Literati Bookstore, Ann Arbor, MI
- Haymarket House, Chicago, IL
- Harrisburg Community College, Harrisburg, PA
- Philadelphia Free Library, Philadelphia, PA
- Soul Sister Review, Online

2022:

- Free Library of Philadelphia in Conversation with Ocean Vuong
- University of Maryland, College Park, MD
- Dartmouth College, Robert Hayden Conference
- Passaic County Community College, Paterson, NJ
- University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
- University of the Arts, Philadelphia, PA
- The Athaneum, Philadelphia, PA
- Anaphora Literary Arts, Online

- Lincoln Center, New York, NY
- The Clearing, Online
- Interfaith Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA
- Dauphin County Library, Dauphin County, PA

2021

- University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
- Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ
- Holy Family College, Philadelphia, PA
- George Washington University, Washington, DC
- Cave Canem Annual Retreat, Online

2020

- University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
- The University of Washington in St. Louis, St. Louis, MO
- The University of Maryland, College Park, MD
- University of Illinois, Chicago, IL
- Gather in Poetry, Academy of American Poets (online)

2019

- Callaloo Conference with Natasha Tretheway, Ishion Hutchinson, Gregory Pardlo and Herman Beavers, University of Penn, Philadelphia, PA
- Kelly Writers' House with Keetje Kupers and Laura Mullen, University of Penn, Philadelphia, PA
- Yale University with Carl Phillips, Louise Gluck, Carolyn Forché, Peter Streckfus and Yanyi, New Haven, CT
- The Rona Jaffe Foundation with Eileen Pollack, New York, NY
- The Ruth Stone Foundation, Putney, VT
- Warren Wilson College, Asheville, NC
- Folger Shakespeare Library with Tananarive Due and N.K. Jemisin, Washington, DC

2018

- Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL
- Goucher College, MD
- New York University, NY
- University of Pittsburgh Center for African American Poetics with Rickey Laurentiis and Safiya Sinclair, Pittsburgh, PA
- Oakland University, Oakland, MI
- Whitman College, Walla Walla, WA

2017

- Adelphi University MFA, NY
- Barnard College, NY
- Callaloo 41st Anniversary Reading. Georgetown University
- Jackson State University, Jackson, MI
- Nebraska Writers' Collective, Lincoln, NE
- Miami Book Festival, Miami, FL
- Midwest Writers Walk, Chelsea, MI
- The Poetry Project, NYC, NY
- Temple University, Philadelphia, PA

2016

- Callaloo 40th Anniversary Reading with Gregory Pardlo and Yusef Koumanyakaa, NYC, NY (Oct.)
- Rona Jaffe Writers' Foundation Reading, NYC, NY (Sept.)
- Louis Untermeyer Poetry Scholar Reading, Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, Ripton, VT
- Literary Detroit, Signal Return, Detroit, MI
- Reading with Rickey Laurentiis and Ladan Osman, Literati Bookstore, Ann Arbor, MI
- Reading with Tarfia Faizullah and Tamar Boyadjian, Literati Bookstore, Ann Arbor, MI
- Off-Site Reading with The Offing, AWP Los Angeles

2014

- Write-A-House, MOCAD, Detroit, MI
- Cannes Lions Festival, Filmed Poem Screening, Cannes, France
- "Social Justice and Art: Unconventional Alumni in Profile" Panel, Univ. of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
- "Poet, Citizen, Artist, Process," Michigan Literary Network Radio, Detroit, MI
- "All My Pretty Ones" Reading Tour, Denver, Salt Lake City, Omaha, Columbus
- Literary Detroit: Signal Return, Detroit, MI

2013

- Robert Hayden Centennial, Ann Arbor, MI
- "Season of the Witch" Reading Tour with Rachel McKibbens, San Francisco, Berkeley, Portland, Seattle
- Zell Fellow 3rd-Year Reading, Literati Bookstore, Ann Arbor, MI
- Oakland Community College Literary Festival, Auburn Hills, MI
- Zell Fellow 2nd-Year Reading, Helmut Stern Auditorium, Ann Arbor, MI

2012

- Skazat, Sweetwaters, Ann Arbor, MI
- Writing Wrongs, Columbus, OH
- Seattle Poetry Series, Town Hall, Seattle, WA
- Zell Fellow 1st-year Reading, Ann Arbor, MI

2010 and earlier

- Contemporary Art Institute of Detroit, ART/Work Exhibit
- National Organization of Women, Women's Equality Day
- Detroit Women's Economic Council, Detroit, MI
- Women of the World Poetry Slam, Columbus, OH
- Oakland County Community College, Department of English Literature Festival, Auburn Hills, MI
- Go! Comedy Ferndale Improv Show, Royal Oak, MI
- Seattle Poetry Series, Seattle WA
- United Nations Association Greater Detroit, Detroit MI
- Writing Wrongs Poetry Series, Columbus, OH
- Central United Methodist Poetry Show, Detroit, MI
- National Congress of Negro Women Anniversary, Detroit MI
- Cantab Poetry Series, Boston, MA
- Scarab Club, Springfed Literary Series, Detroit, MI

- Red Comma Cafe presents The ShapeShifters, Birmingham, MI
- University of Michigan Artist Exhibit, Ann Arbor, MI
- Women of the World Poetry Slam, Detroit, MI
- Oakland County Community College, Dept. of English LitOut Loud Series
- Vancouver Poetry Series, Vancouver, BC
- Drake Underground, Toronto, ON
- Nuyorican Poetry Cafe, New York, NY
- The Last Poets, Ann Arbor, MI
- Boll Family YMCA Poetry Show, Detroit, MI
- Michigan State University, Lansing, MI
- National StopMax Conference, Philadelphia, PA
- Women of the World Poetry Slam, Detroit, MI
- Ann Arbor Public Schools, Ann Arbor MI
- The Filmore (Former State Theatre) Detroit, MI
- National Public Radio, Detroit, MI
- Max M. Fisher Music Theatre, Detroit, MI
- Music Hall, Detroit, MI
- Zoae Arts Series, Bowery Poetry Club, NY, NY

READING TOURS

2014

- “All My Pretty Ones” with Rachel McKibbens| Las Vegas | Denver | Omaha | Columbus

2013

- “Season of the Witch” with Rachel McKibbens| San Fran | Oakland | Berkeley | Portland | Seattle

SERVICE

July 2021 - 2023

Posse Foundation Mentor

Posse Foundation

Mentor 10 Bryn Mawr students from various disciplines and backgrounds

March 2021 - Present

Arts and Rest Colony in Sicily

Pensare e Riposare

Partnering with a global real estate development firm to build a writing and rest retreat open to writers of all genres in all stages by 2024.

January 2021 - Dec. 2022

Co-Convener

Campus Partnership for Equity and Antiracism

Serve at the pleasure of the president as co-convener of the

Sept 2019 - Present

Non-MFA Clearinghouse: A De-Colonization Project Independent Project

Provide craft resources via an online clearinghouse to individuals in the writing community who can not access an MFA program due to hardship or lifestage.

Jan 2019 - May 2019

Modern Lit Community Workshops Invitation by Kirwyn Sutherland

Free community poetry workshops held at the Art Sanctuary in Philadelphia

2017 - Present

Mentor

Bryn Mawr College

Accountable to 5 students of color who look to me for counsel and advice

2019 - 2020

Flexner Lecture Series

Bryn Mawr College

Provide resources to the committee regarding the Flexner resident for 20-21 season

2019 - 2020

Diversity and Inclusion Steering Committee

Bryn Mawr College

Plan faculty-student diversity programming with Provost's office

2019 - 2020

Breaking Barriers Mentor

Bryn Mawr College

Provide mentorship for first-generation college student

2015 - 2017

Executive Board Member

Write A House

Served in executive advisory role for the first non-profit in Detroit that seeks to offer free houses to writers through a national competitive process.

2014 - 2016

Executive Board Member

InsideOUT Arts Organizations

Defined and evaluated long-term strategies for Detroit's largest literary arts nonprofit.