



CalArts Writers Showcase

Talks

May 15

3 PM

REDCAT

Roy and Edna Disney CalArts Theater

CALARTS

California Institute of the Arts

We gratefully acknowledge that we operate on the traditional lands of the Tongva, Tataviam, and Chumash people including the Gabrieleño, Fernandeño, and Ventureño; members of the Takic and Chumashan language families; and other Indigenous peoples who made their homes in and around the area we now call Los Angeles. We honor their ancestors past, present, and future, and recognize their continued existence and contributions to our society.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Creative Writing MFA of the California Institute of the Arts and REDCAT are proud to present this year's MFA Creative Writing Showcase. The wild range of experiment, genre and content you will experience this afternoon embodies the spirit of the Creative Writing MFA and of CalArts and gives us hope in challenging times. Join us after the reading for a reception to celebrate the class of 2025 and the release of their anthology, *May You Find What You are Looking For*, copies of which will be available for purchase.

ABOUT THE WRITERS (*in order of appearance*)

Zoey Greenwald is a writer and editor based between Los Angeles and New York. Her writing has been featured in *Document Journal*, *The Contemporary Art Review of LA*, *The Whitney Review of New Writing*, and the *Michigan Quarterly Review*. Her writing for performance has been staged at Frieze LA and her academic work in cultural studies has been presented at USC and UC Irvine. She is editor-in-chief of SPASM magazine and the nightlife editor of literary tabloid *On the Rag*. She loves you she loves you!

Milo Hermes Openshaw (he/him) is terrified and excited to graduate. He will be moving back home to Seattle this summer, where he will think of a name for his novel-in-progress, play lots of video games, and take long walks on the beach.

Analise Roth is a fiction and non-fiction writer focused on genre blending, gender, the human body, and the outer limit of human experience. She was born and raised in Orange County, California.

Alissa Binder is an artist, editor, and writer from Los Angeles, California. She writes poetry and prose, as well as in the interstices between genres. When she is not raging against machines or circling around mosh pits, she can be found hiking with her super rad pup, Bradley.

Saba Hakimzadeh-Abianeh is an artist and writer that is currently weaving poems. She writes to honor her homeland, the mountains, and her ancestors. Her current project, *Village Gossip*, is a collection of poems and images that imagines liberatory landscapes centered around her ancestral village of Abyaneh in Iran. With themes of displacement, grief, transmutation, and sacred beings. She is based in California.

Davan Hamilton (she/her/hers) is a writer, editor, and serial daydreamer with a background in film studies and perpetual standom. She is currently crafting a fantasy collection exploring themes of intimacy and embodiment. When she is not writing, she can be found circling the drain of endless streaming (youtube, movies, and video games alike), building lego sets, or in the clouds.

Rachel R. Carroll is a poet, novelist, cultural critic, lyricist, educator, and serial diarist with work appearing in NME, MTV News, The Huffington Post, and elsewhere. Rachel lives in Los Angeles by way of Brooklyn.

Berlin Mair is a writer, editor, and filmmaker in Los Angeles, California. Berlin holds a BA in Creative Writing from Columbia College Chicago, and is the founder and Editor in Chief of *Strip Mall Magazine*.

Tamar Bresge is an artist, writer, and educator working in experimental poetry, literary art and the intersection of text-image-language-sound. Much of her work is influenced by her being low-vision and low-hearing, but she is also interested in high fantasy video games, the weave of catharsis through Sophoklean theater, and maintaining an active, spectral dream life. Before coming to CalArts, she received an MFA in Interdisciplinary Studio Art from Tufts University in 2022, where she followingly taught in the Experimental College. She is the Head Poetry Editor of *Strip Mall Magazine* and has been awarded the Critical Studies Post-Graduate Teaching Fellowship for the class of 2025.

Melanie O'Hara is a graduate of Cal State San Marcos, where she achieved a B.A. in Literature and Writing Studies. Her work has been published in *Strip Mall Magazine*, has served as editorial staff and secondary editor on other literary magazines, and assisted in organizing the Sprawl 2023 and Next Words 2025 reading series. Her work consists primarily of speculative fiction, and she is currently developing her debut novel for publication.

Lucas Escoto is a twenty-five-year-old trans man who is currently working on his debut memoir, *I Choose Me*. Through his writing, he is navigating the world and his perception of self and attempting to cultivate hope in a cruel socio-political climate.

Margeaux Feldman is a writer, public educator, and artist who holds a PhD in English Literature and Sexual Diversity Studies from the University of Toronto. Margeaux's first book, *Touch Me, I'm Sick: A Memoir in Essays*, is forthcoming with Beacon Press (September 9, 2025). Their essays have been published in *The Sonora Review*, *GUTS: A Canadian Feminist Magazine*, *PRISM*, *Rabble*, and *The Ex-Puritan*, amongst others.

Anna Dória is a Brazilian poet, filmmaker, and performer whose work drifts between text and image with the precision of a broken compass. She is interested in emotional excess, structural failure, and whatever slips through the cracks of official narratives. Her films and performances have been selected for festivals in Brazil, Mexico, France, Germany, Italy, Scotland, the United States—and a few other coordinates she’s still trying to map.

UPCOMING AT REDCAT

Tania El Khoury and Ziad Abu-Rish: *The Search for Power*

May 29 - June 8

The Search for Power, a performance that places the audience in an intimate gathering, delves into the intersection between public utilities infrastructure, people’s relationship to the state, and various popular mobilizations to shape both.

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