

# **NEXT WORDS**

## CALARTS MFA WRITING SHOWCASE 2010

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MAY 8, 2010 | 3:00 PM

presented by

REDCAT

Roy and Edna Disney/CalArts Theater

California Institute of the Arts

CALARTS



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## CALARTS MFA WRITING SHOWCASE 2010

SATURDAY, MAY 8, 2010 | 3:00PM

Reception to follow at 5:00 p.m.

The CalArts MFA Writing Program and CalArts School of Critical Studies present Next Words—featuring a selection of new writings and performances by graduating MFA Writing students. Next Words offers the Los Angeles literary community a new showcase for daring work that crosses genres, engages hybrid forms, and questions the distinction between the experimental and the conventional. After readings at Skylight Books on March 13, at Beyond Baroque on April 17, and at Sea & Space on April 24, the Next Words reading series comes to REDCAT for its fourth and final event of the spring.

Thank you—Nancy Wood (Dean School of Critical Studies), Christine Wertheim (Chair, MFA Writing Program), Mathew Timmons (Graduate Programs Coordinator), Alecia Menzano, Marjorie Spain, Bon Appetit, the staff of REDCAT, and the faculty of the MFA Writing Program.

Established in 1994, the CalArts MFA Writing Program offers a two year immersion in a non-tracking multidisciplinary environment housed in an institute dedicated to experimental art-making. This context sponsors vibrant and critically informed conversation among poets, scholars, fiction writers, translators, essayists and others. The diverse nature of the program provides opportunities to work with acclaimed practitioners in established genres, and to develop new hybrid forms, including work that combines the critical with the creative.

### THE PERFORMERS

**Nikki Darling** writes for the *LA Weekly* music department and *Huffington Post* as a cultural critic. Her essay, *Appropriate For Destruction*, was selected to be in the 2010 *Best Music Writing*. She is working on completing her thesis *Ladies Feet*.

**Tiffany Promise** is a graduate of Eugene Lang. She writes fiction and poetry, and has a penchant for making disgusting things beautiful. Her stories have appeared in *The Salt River Review*. After completing her MFA at CalArts, she'll be moving to San Francisco to study art therapy. She loves Hello Kitty.

**Jennifer Styperk**'s poetry has been published in *Denver Quarterly*, *The Texas Observer* and *Listenlight* and is forthcoming in the *There Journal* and *Open City*. A recipient of the James A. Michener Grant for Writers, Jennifer is originally from Pittsburgh and currently resides in Los Angeles.

**Zhen Li** writes to survive. She writes from a place between desperation and much too logical assemblage. She writes about everything from lemmings, spontaneous fire power, robotic mass populace mind wash, cannibalism and death, to an immigrant perspective on fairy tales. She also recently started a mail-based press called *A Leery Pistol Press* for more information, talk to her after the readings.

**Howard Hsi-hao Chiang** may sometimes be spotted wandering around the sidewalks of Los Angeles. He is currently working on an artist book of poetry entitled, *images between the floating world*.

**Katie Jacobson** is from New Jersey, and didn't know about the existence of unincorporated areas until age 20. Thus, she is fascinated by rurality and being in the middle of nowhere. She published her first zine in October 2009, a sample of which appears in *I Knew A Motherfucker Like You and She Said #1*. Her writing is also featured in valeveil's forthcoming CASEBOK/Ekphrasis project. Sometimes she has no bones.

**Jon Lindsey's** novel, *Nothing From Nothing*, flirts with Los Angeles, kidnapping and incest.

After returning from leave, **Chad Michael** completed a thesis on the journey he shared with his mother. The piece he'll be reading is from the beginning of that work. He credits his mentors, Janet and Christine, for giving him the moral support he needed to finish what he started.

**Jon Rutzmoser's** work engages with notions of ethical subjectivity within a world of collapsing metaphors, linguistic slippages, and self-exploitations. His thesis titled, *shhhh! it's poetry* is devoted to developing new forms of vulnerability and play in relation to contemporary discursivity. His blog is hystericallyreal.blogspot.com.

Although proficient in many forms of writing, **Hilary Darling** truly loves writing poetry. Her work draws from a wealth of life experiences and from her studies in English Literature. She will read from *Inside a Skirted Bee*, a collection of poems described as "existential meditations on the ethics of creating life."

– Intermission –

**Analisa Raya-Flores** has almost written a novel.

**Samantha Cohen** is mostly concerned with unstable identities, secret belief systems, and what people eat. She lives in Los Angeles.

**Travis Diehl** is an artist and writer living and working in Los Angeles.

**Katrina Coltun's** thesis, a fiction collection titled *Little Hands and other Stories*, explores connection and perception, obsessions and compulsions, among families and lovers. She also writes critical and creative non-fiction, and lately is particularly interested in narratives of the apocalypse. She lives in Los Angeles, and she intends to be here for a while.

**Kirsty Singer** is a semi-native Southern Californian and poet. Her current project, *Becoming Angeleno*, explores linguistic slippage in an oversignified and hypermediated landscape and rituals of mourning in relation to celebrity. In her other life she is a pop lyricist and backup dancer for a Lady Gaga impersonator in Bollywood.

**Sukanya Sen** is fascinated by cities and people who live in them. She likes exploring new cities, going for long walks, taking the train and then surfacing at unknown destinations. And that is what her writing deals with—ideas of movement, crossing boundaries and losing oneself in the crowd.

**Ashley Tomeck** is a graduate of UC San Diego and a southern California native, born and raised in Chino. Her writing consists of short fiction, often incorporating elements of the fantastic and bizarre. She enjoys science fiction, sauvignon blanc, and has an unearthly penchant for snow.

**Rima Añosa** is a creator and performer of fictions, plays, puppet shows, obscure songs and films. She likes when words lift off the page and dance on stage, in the air, and into your ear. She believes in r/evolution of the mind, spirit, bowels and the word.

**Saehee Cho** writes fiction. She holds a BA in Literature/Writing from the University of California, San Diego where she also studied biology for a period. Subsequently her fiction is often concerned with issues of disassociated anatomy and the location of self within and outside of the form of the body. Her work has been featured in *Shrapnel* and *Ex Nihilo*. She currently resides in Los Angeles.

**Katy Petty** received her B.A. in Semiotics from Brown University. Her short story, *Fathom*, is in the upcoming issue of *BlackClock*. Her dramatic writing is included in *Monologues for Women by Women* edited by Tori Haring-Smith, and in the film *Radiation*, which premiered at Sundance. Currently, Petty is writing a novel.