

NEXT WORDS CALARTS MFA WRITING SHOWCASE 2011

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presented by

REDCAT

Roy and Edna Disney/CalArts Theater

California Institute of the Arts

CaLARTS 

NEXT WORDS

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Reception to follow at 9:00 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 Stories Bookstore on April 16, at Kristi Engle Gallery on April 30, and at Skylight Books on May 13, 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), Peter Kaplan, Alecia Menzano, Marjorie Spain, Jon Wagner, Jon Rutzmoser, Bon Appétit, 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 and the creative.

THE PERFORMERS

Nicholas Katzban has been published as a music critic in both *THE LA RECORD* and *Deli Magazine*. He was a freelance contributor to the now defunct *Chief Magazine*. He appears in front of you shortly, intelligent, poised and I can honestly say that I love him—in a way I've never known before.

Daniel Hockenson comes from Northern California. He dreams to subsist on writing and salvaging bits of unwanted furniture: write in the morning then wander the streets until dark. He'll make new pieces from the scraps, sure, but it's more about the hunt. Please put your hands together and wake him up...

Amanda Montei's creative and critical work has appeared or is forthcoming in *Ms. Magazine*, *Gaga Stigmata*, *PAJ: A Journal of Performance and Art*, *PANK*, *Nanofiction*, *Night Train*, *Harriet*, *Delirious Hem*, and others. She blogs for *Ms. Magazine*, and sometimes maintains an amorphous blog of her own at bluebloodbabyblech.blogspot.com.

Marco Di Domenico was born almost two years ago at a gas station somewhere between Detroit and Los Angeles. Soon after that he was dismayed to discover he was a writer. But he decided to make the best of it.

Claudia Slanar was born in Vienna/Austria shortly before the first oil price shock. Whereas she cannot remember much of her childhood and her teenage years, she recalls having a long history of studying subjects like business administration, art history, economic geography, and aesthetics and politics. She writes at the intersection of critical theory and fiction with a strong focus on the performative.

Anna Jones is currently finishing her first novel.

Damaris (Dama) Montalvo studies trauma and the existential crisis the afflicted endure and strive to surpass. In her first untitled novel, she explores how trauma and its unanswered questions consume the life of a rape victim – and the lives of those around her. It is only through a strong support system that trauma can be overcome.

Henry Hoke wants you to remember him like this: wrapped in Christmas lights, calling out from somewhere behind you in line, dropping plastic pirate treasure to illuminate the moments you almost forgot.

—Intermission—

Emily Kiernan writes about islands, vaudeville, implacable but unjustified feelings of abandonment, the West, and places that aren't the way she remembered them. Her work has appeared in Pank, The Collagist, Amor Fati, We Still Like, The Writing Disorder, and other journals. She was recently named a finalist for the Orlando Prize in short fiction.

Douglas Matus is a writer from Texas. His work has appeared in Nexus, The Pebble Lake Review, and online at the Black Clock blog.

Katie Manderfield is interested in the intersection of language and sensation. Her work seeks to explore the ways in which words liberate, oppress, comfort, and confound us. Influenced by the works of Samuel Beckett, Francis Bacon, and Anne Carson, her fiction examines notions of insanity, the ordinary, and the imaginary. Katie Manderfield graduated from the University of San Francisco with degrees in Philosophy and English. Her fiction has appeared in several publications, including *3:AM*, *Verbicide*, and *Pindeladyboz*. She lives and writes in LA, and she is a contributor to *LAist*.

Allie Rowbottom received her BA in creative writing and gender studies from New York University. After she graduates from the MFA program at CalArts, Allie will be beginning her doctoral studies in the PhD writing program at the University of Houston. In her free time she enjoys yoga, horses and tea.

Diana Arterian is a recipient of the Beutner Family Award for her poetry. She is also the personal assistant to California Poet Laureate Carol Muske-Dukes. In the fall she will attend USC to begin her Ph.D. in Literature and Creative Writing as a Merit Fellow. Her work has appeared in *River Styx* and is forthcoming in *Iron Horse*.

Elizabeth Hall is researching her first book, *I Have Devoted my Life to the Clitoris*, a study of small things.

Brian Pickett likes to write words. Sometimes words become sentences and even whole stories. Word on the street is they are quite funny.