

Alyse Bensel

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EDUCATION

PhD, Literary Studies and Creative Writing, University of Kansas, ABD, defense March 2018

Dissertation: *Rare, Wondrous Things: A Poetic Biography of Maria Sibylla Merian*

Megan Kaminski (director), Laura Moriarty, Lee Ann Roripaugh, Ann Rowland

MFA, Creative Writing (Poetry), Pennsylvania State University, May 2012

Thesis: *Natural Selection*

Robin Becker (chair), Julia Kasdorf

BA, English and Environmental Studies, Washington College, May 2010

EMPLOYMENT

Graduate Research Assistant, Department of English, University of Kansas, Spring 2018

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of English, University of Kansas, August 2013-Spring 2017

Graduate Writing Consultant, Writing Center, University of Kansas, August 2013-July 2014

Post-MFA Teaching Fellow, Department of English, Pennsylvania State University, Fall 2012-Spring 2013

Writing Tutor, Writing Center, Pennsylvania State University, Fall 2011-Spring 2012

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of English, Pennsylvania State University, Fall 2010-Spring 2012

FELLOWSHIPS

Richard and Jeannette Sias Graduate Fellow in the Humanities, Hall Center, University of Kansas, Fall 2017

Graduate Research Fellow, Hall Center, University of Kansas, Summer 2017

Applied Humanities Summer Fellow, Kansas Humanities Council, Hall Center, Summer 2015

ADMINISTRATIVE AND EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

Assistant to the Director of the Graduate Creative Writing Program, Department of English, University of Kansas, June 2014-December 2016

Book Reviews Editor, *The Los Angeles Review*, April 2013-present

Head Editor (2014-2015), Managing Editor (2015-2016), Assistant Poetry Editor (2013-2014), *Beecher's Magazine*

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Areas of Interest: creative writing, 20th century and contemporary American literature, environmental literature, publishing and editing, composition

Courses Taught

University of Kansas

ENGL 352: Poetry Writing I (SP 15 / 1 section)

ENGL 220: Introduction to Creative Writing (SP 17 / 1 section)

ENGL 210: Introduction to Poetry (SU 16, FALL 16 / 3 online sections)

ENGL 102: Critical Reading and Writing (SP 14, FALL 15, SP 16, SP 17 / 5 sections)

ENGL 101: Composition (FALL 13, FALL 14 / 4 sections)

Pennsylvania State University

ENG 202A: Writing in the Social Sciences (FALL 11, SU 12, FALL 12, SU 13 (online) / 4 sections)

ENG 50: Introduction to Creative Writing (FALL 11, SP 13 / 2 sections)

ENG 15: Rhetoric and Composition (FALL 10, SP 11, SU 12, SP 13 / 4 sections)

PUBLICATIONS

Current Book Projects

Rare, Wondrous Things. Book manuscript (poetry), under review.

Spoil. Book manuscript (poetry), under review.

Chapbooks

Not of Their Own Making. Chicago: dancing girl press, 2014.

Shift. Washington, D.C.: Plan B Press, 2012.

Peer-Reviewed Scholarly Articles

“In the Group Home: Disenfranchised Youth and the Creative Writing Workshop as Intervention.” *Journal of Creative Writing Studies* 3.1, forthcoming.

Selected Poems in Journals

“Nocturne.” *Pleiades* 38.2 (forthcoming Summer 2018).

“Sit-Upon.” *Moon City Review* (forthcoming AWP 2018).

“Lunar.” *Puerto del Sol*, 53.1, The Science Issue (forthcoming March 2018).

“Reproduction Theory,” “Gem and Mineral.” *Terriain.org: A Journal of the Built + Natural Environments* (forthcoming January 2018).

“Grief is a fiddlehead,” “And the Expanse of a Digital Coastline.” *South Dakota Review*, Issue 53.3&4 (forthcoming Winter 2018).

“End Credits.” *Poetry International* (forthcoming Winter 2018).

“Shotgun.” *The Fem* 6 November 2017.

<https://thefemlitmag.com/shotgun-by-alyse-bensel-6290c89d05a3>

“Suburbia.” *elsewhere*, Issue 13.

<http://elsewheremag.org/issue-13/>

“Auto-Translate,” “Possum.” *The Collapsar*, August 2017 Edition.

<https://thecollapsar.org/2-poems-by-alyse-bensel>

“Fritillary,” “Instructions for Hunger,” “Kitchen.” *Tinderbox Poetry Journal*, Volume 4, Issue 3.

<http://tinderboxpoetry.com/>

“Thumb.” *New South*, Issue 10.1:14.

“Float Trip.” *REAL: Regarding Arts and Letters*, Volume 40, Issue 2: 146.

https://issuu.com/reallitmag/docs/real_40_2

“Tourism.” *Bear Review*, Volume 2, Issue 2.

https://issuu.com/bearreview/docs/bear_review_volume_3_issue_2

“Jealousy.” *Stirring: A Literary Collection*, Volume 19, Edition 2.

<https://www.stirringlit.com/192/jealousy-by-alyse-bensel>

“Lies to Tell the Body,” “Happy Accidents,” “Prizes of Mostly Air,” “Cars and Highways,” “Vinegar & Honey,” “Instagram Suite.” *Vending Machine Press* (28 January 2017).

<https://vendingmachinepress.com/2017/03/05/lies-to-tell-the-body-and-other-poems-by-alyse-bensel/>

“Dear Distance,” “Do Not Consume Raw.” *The Boiler*, Winter Issue XXII.

<https://theboilerjournal.com/2017/01/17/alyse-bensel/>

- “Your Eye Is a Red Dwarf Planet.” *Glass: A Journal of Poetry* (January 2017).
<http://www.glass-poetry.com/journal/2017/january/bensel-eye.html>
- “On Poisonous Snakes in Puerto Rico.” *The Adroit Journal*, Issue 19.
<http://www.theadroitjournal.org/issue-nineteen-alyse-bensel-the-adroit-journal>
- “Illustration as Memento Mori.” *Sugared Water*, Issue 5: 21.
- “Three days into your marriage.” *Quarterly West*, Issue 89.
<http://quarterlywest.com/?p=3778>
- “Fever [pain].” *Bone Bouquet* 7.2 (Fall 2016): 15.
- “Esteemed Art-Loving Reader.” *Spiral Orb*, Issue 11 (January 2016).
<http://www.spiralorb.net/eleven/bensel>
- “Housewife.” *Rogue Agent*, Issue 9 (December 2015).
<http://www.rogueagentjournal.com/abensel>
- “21st Century Domestic.” *Heron Tree* (November 2015).
<http://herontree.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/bensel1pdf.pdf>
- “[flowering above].” *burntdistrict*, Volume 4 Issue 1 (Summer 2015): 55.
- “As They Are,” “Colorfast,” “Witchcraft and A Woman’s Worth.” *Menacing Hedge* (Spring 2015).
<http://www.menacinghedge.com/spring2015/entry-bensel.php>
- “Broken Sonnet,” “Her Mother on Snapdragons.” *Heavy Feather Review* 3.4 (Vacancies): 286-287.
- “Merian’s Brush,” “scale wing,” “To get a moth—.” *Sugar Mule*, Issue 48.
<http://www.sugarmule.com/48issue/AlyseBensel.html>
- “Hearing your words and not a word among them.” *Paper Nautilus*, 2014: 62.
- “Glossary for Metamorphosis I.” *Mid-American Review*, 35.1: 97.
- “Letters to Clara In Nürnberg,” “Pomegranate Tree, Split Fruit and Painted Lady, 1665.” *Isthmus* (Fall 2014): 38-40.
- “Maria at the Labadist Colony,” “The Only Letter She Sent Her Husband While He Built the Wall.”
IthacaLit (Autumn 2014).
<http://ithacalit.com/alysebensel.html#.VH4HzWTF-5I>
- “What Comes from Dead Birds.” *The Fourth River*, Spring 2014: 179.
- “After Tulipomania,” “Caterpillar Poem.” *Ruminant Magazine*, Issue 31 (Spring 2014): 10-11.
- “First, I Go to the Sale Section.” *Cold Mountain Review*, Vol. 42.1 (Fall 2013): 48.
- “Domestic,” “Women of Art and Science at the Rembrandt House Museum.” *Blue Earth Review* Vol. XI (Winter 2013): 14-16.
- “August This Year,” “The Other Kids at Recess.” *The Meadow* (2013): 102, 51.
- “Feast.” *LOG: Nature Poems About Nature*. NAP (November 2012).
<http://naplitmag.com/echapbooks/log.pdf>
- “Entomology.” *Cold Mountain Review* Vol. 41.1 (Fall 2012): 35.
- “Blue Collar.” *SNReview* (Summer-Fall 2012).

<http://www.snreview.org/0112Bensel.html>

“Saturday Night Reunion,” “Make Do and Mend,” “Pin-Up Girls,” “Two Years Until I See Him Again.” *Word Riot* (April 2012).

<http://www.wordriot.org/archives/3921>

“*Cassiopeia* and Marianne Moore at Walsingham Pond,” “Apocalypse at the County Fair.” *Emerge Literary Journal* (Winter 2012): 100-101.

“Time in the Breaking House.” *Cider Press Review*, Vol. 13 (Spring 2012): 41.

“Butterfly Balloon.” *MAYDAY Magazine*, Issue 5 (Spring 2012).

<http://www.maydaymagazine.com/issue5poetrybenselbutterflyballoon.php>

“Up the Little Conewago.” *The Summerset Review* (Spring 2012).

<http://www.summersetreview.org/12spring/bensel.html>

Poems in Anthologies

“Melusine Spinning Yarns,” “Where There Is Mystery, There Is A Woman.” *Till the Tide: An Anthology of Mermaid Poetry*, Ed. Trista Edwards (Sundress Publications, 2015): 43-44.

“Annual,” “Family Portrait.” *The Burden of Light: Poems on Illness and Loss*, Ed. Tanya Chernov (Short Fuse Publishing, 2014). <https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/413354>

Nonfiction

“Sinners.” *Entropy* (13 June 2017).

<https://entropymag.org/sinners/>

“A House of Restoration.” *Pithead Chapel*, Vol. 2.7 (July 2013).

<http://pitheadchapel.com/a-house-of-restoration/>

Selected Book Reviews

The Atheist Wore Goat Silk by Karen Leona Anderson and *The Well Speaks of Its Own Poison* by Maggie Smith. *Pleiades Book Review* 15.1 (forthcoming Winter 2018).

Marvels of the Invisible by Jenny Molberg. *Poetry International* (20 September 2017).

<http://poetryinternationalonline.com/book-review-marvels-of-the-invisible-by-jenny-molberg/>

Community Garden for Lonely Girls by Christine Shan Shan Hou and *Ugly Time* by Sarah Galvin.

Colorado Review Online (August 30, 2017).

<http://coloradoreview.colostate.edu/reviews/two-reviews-community-garden-for-lonely-girls-and-ugly-time/>

The Opposite of Light by Kimberly Gray. *Colorado Review Online* (February 13, 2017).

<http://coloradoreview.colostate.edu/reviews/the-opposite-of-light/>

Receipt by Karen Leona Anderson. *Pleiades Book Review* 14.1: 29-30.

Know the Night: A Memoir of Survival in the Small Hours by Maria Mutch and *Precipice Fruit* by Sara Biggs Chaney. *Literary Mama* (December 17, 2014).

<http://www.literarymama.com/reviews/archives/2014/12/in-the-wee-small-hours-of-the-morning-a-review-of-know-the-night-and-precipice-fruit.html>

Incarnadine by Mary Szybist. *Newpages* (April 1, 2013).

<http://www.newpages.com/bookreviews/2013-04-01/#Incarnadine-Mary-Szybist>

The Double Truth by Chard deNiord. *Prairie Schooner* (Spring 2012): 180-82.

Sherwood Forest by Camille Roy. *EOAGH: A Journal of the Arts*, Issue 7 (October 2011).

<http://eoagh.com/?p=223>

Inside the Money Machine by Minnie Bruce Pratt. *Coldfront* (September 15, 2011).
<http://coldfrontmag.com/reviews/inside-the-money-machine>

Under Glass by Jen Hirt. *CALYX* Vol. 26.3 (Summer 2011): 135-36.

Right of Way by Andrew Wingfield, *Fiction Writer's Review* (August 15, 2011).
<http://fictionwritersreview.com/reviews/right-of-way-by-andrew-wingfield>

The River Is Rising by Patricia Jabbeh Wesley. *WPSU* "Bookmark" (February 2011). Radio.

AWARDS AND DISTINCTIONS

External Awards

Residency, Sundress Academy for the Arts (SAFTA), Firefly Farms, Knoxville, TN (April 2018)
Finalist, Cowles Book Prize Poetry Contest, Southeast Missouri State University Press (2017)
Third Place, Nan Snow Emerging Writer Award, C. D. Wright Women Writers Conference (2017)
Finalist, Autumn House Press Poetry Prize (2017)
Finalist, Airlie Press Prize (2017)
Semifinalist, Agape Editions, Numinous Orisons, Luminous Origin Literary Award (2017)
Honorable Mention, National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Stevens Poetry Competition (2016)
Semifinalist, Sundress Publications Open Reading Period (2016)
Semifinalist, Crab Orchard Review Poetry Series Open Reading Period (2016, 2017)
Winner, Langston Hughes Creative Writing Award in Poetry (2015)
Finalist, Seven Kitchens Press Keystone Chapbook Prize (2013)

Research Awards

First Place, Contoski Award for Poetry, Department of English, University of Kansas (2014, 2015, 2017)
Nominee, *Best New Poets*, University of Kansas Graduate Creative Writing Program (2015, 2016, 2017)
Third Place, Contoski Award for Poetry, Department of English, University of Kansas (2016)
Co-Winner, Albrecht Award, Department of English, University of Kansas (2014)
Fellowship, Miller Award, Department of English, University of Kansas (2013-2014)
Nominee, AWP Intro to Journals Award, Pennsylvania State University (2012)
Fellowship, Milton B. Dolinger Award in Writing, Pennsylvania State University (2010-2012)

Other Awards

Travel Award, Department of English, University of Kansas (2016, 2017)
Grant-funded Participant, Applied Humanities Bootcamp, Hall Center for the Humanities (May 2015)
Finalist, KU Student Employee of the Year (2015)

PRESENTATIONS

Conferences and Panels

"Pitching, Publishing, and Promoting Reviews: A How-To Conversation," Conference Panelist and Moderator with Dan Beachy-Quick, Kristina Marie Darling, and Jennifer Schomburg Kanke, *The Association of Writers and Writing Programs Annual Conference*, March 9, 2018, Tampa, FL.

"Teaching Creative Writing in the 'Alt-Fact' Era: Research, Facts, and Feelings," Conference Panel (Individual Presentation) with Jameelah Lang and Jennifer Pullen, *Creative Writing Studies Organization (CWSO) Annual Conference*, November 11, 2017, Blue Ridge Assembly, Black Mountain, NC.

"The Poetry of (Un)Motherhood," Reading with Karen Craigo, Rhiannon Dickerson, and L. Ann Wheeler, *C. D. Wright Women Writers Conference*, November 4, 2017, University of Central Arkansas, Conway, AR.

“A Poetic Biography of Maria Sibylla Merian (1647-1717): Natural Science, Religion, and Illustrations in Pre-Enlightenment Europe,” Resident Fellows Seminar Presentation, October 10, 2017, Hall Center for the Humanities, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS.

“Rare, Wondrous Things: A Poetic Biography of Maria Sibylla Merian,” Creative Presentation, *John R. Milton Creative Writers’ Conference*, October 29, 2016, University of South Dakota, Vermillion, SD.

“In the Group Home: Disenfranchised Youth and Creative Writing Workshop as Intervention,” Conference Panel (Individual Presentation) with Susan Meyers and Jennifer Pullen, *Creative Writing Studies Organization (CWSO) Annual Conference*, September 23, 2016, Warren Wilson College, Swannanoa, NC.

“Let’s Get Weird with *Things* and *Motion*: Poetry as Object and Performance in the Creative Writing Classroom,” Conference Panel (Individual Presentation) in “Teaching Strange: The Impossible Art of Poetic Weirdness” with Hadara Bar-Nadav, José Angel Araguz, Ryler Dustin, and Micheline Maylor, *Creative Writing and Innovative Pedagogies (CWIPs) Conference*, October 17, 2015, University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, MO.

“Dear X, Sincerely Y: An Epistolary Workshop,” Conference Workshop, Co-presentation with Kristin Coffey, *Winter Wheat: The Mid-American Review Festival of Writing*, November 13, 2015, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH.

“Why Reviewing Matters: Diversity in Reviews,” Conference Panelist and Moderator with Robin Becker, Randon Billings Noble, and Camille-Yvette Welsch, *The Association of Writers and Writing Programs Annual Conference*, April 10, 2015, Minneapolis, MN.

Selected Readings

Big Tent Reading Series, December 8, 2016. Raven Bookstore, Lawrence, KS.

Mid-American Review 35th Anniversary Reading, April 9, 2015. Gallery13, Minneapolis, MN.

Langston Hughes Award Ceremony, February 1, 2015. Lawrence Arts Center, Lawrence, KS.

Taproom Poetry Series, January 26, 2014. Eighth Street Taproom, Lawrence, KS.

Hear at Martha’s, June 8, 2013. Martha Washington Community Library, Alexandria, VA.

Almost Uptown Poetry Cartel, June 6, 2013. Midtown Scholar Bookstore, Harrisburg, PA. .

SERVICE

Director, Undergraduate Reading Series, The University of Kansas, 2017-2018

Mentor, *The Adroit Journal* Summer Writing Mentorship Program, Summer 2017

Graduate Creative Writing Committee, University of Kansas Department of English, Student Association of Graduates in English (SAGE) representative, Fall 2015-Spring 2017

Advisory Committee, KU Department of English, SAGE representative, Fall 2014-Spring 2015

Presenter, “Book Reviewing,” SAGE Professionalization Workshop, April 25, 2014, KU, Wescoe Hall

Community Outreach

Co-Organizer, Lawrence Poetry Fair, Lawrence, KS (2016-2018)

Co-Facilitator, Weekly Writing Group. Stormbreak Girls’ Group Home, State College, PA, Spring 2012

Co-Coordinator, PHREE Empowered Expressions Poetry Reading, Red Flag Campaign, October 2011

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Member, Creative Writing Studies Organization (CWSO), 2016-2018

Member, Association of Writers & Writing Programs (AWP), 2010-2018