

Event Title: The Dancer From The Dance

Event Description: How can we, and do we want to, separate the writer from the writing?— an investigation of how or whether we can separate the work, which we may like and even admire, from the author, who may have been racist, xenophobic, homophobic, anti-semitic, for instance Ezra Pound, T.S. Eliot, Paul Claudel, etc.— and more recent examples of writers whose lives and political or social views may be problematic or even reprehensible, but whose work we may still want to read, admire, teach, and study.

Type of Event: Pedagogy

Event Organizer: Mong-Lan (monglan17@gmail.com)

MONG-LAN, poet, writer, educator, author of 7 books (Dusk Aflame) & 3 chapbooks, has won a Stegner Fellowship at Stanford Univ, Fulbright, Pushcart Prize, Juniper Prize, etc. Former professor at the Univ of Maryland in Tokyo, she has served as faculty & visiting writer-artist on numerous campuses. www.monglan.com

Moderator: Ralph Adamo (adamoralph@yahoo.com)

Ralph Adamo is a Professor of English at Xavier University where he edits Xavier Review and Xavier Review Press. He is the author of seven collections of poetry, the editor of several others, including the selected poems of Everette Maddox. He is past editor of New Orleans Review.

Participants

Participant: Mong- Lan (monglan17@gmail.com)

See bio above, Event Organizer.

Participant: Bill Lavender (bill.lavender@gmail.com)

Bill Lavender is the author of 12 books of poetry, most recently MY ID, from BlazeVOX, and the 3 Letters, a trilogy of novellas, from Spuyten Duyvil. He operates Lavender Ink / Dialogos from his home in New Orleans. He is cofounder and co director of the New Orleans Poetry Festival.

Participant: Jessica Smith (jessica.s.smith@gmail.com)

Jessica Smith's books of poetry include Life-List (Chax) and How to Know the Flowers (Veliz). She teaches at The University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Participant: Michelle Taransky (taransky@writing.upenn.edu)

Michelle Taransky is the author of two books of poetry: Sorry Was In The Woods and Barn Burned, Then, both from Omnidawn. Taransky is a Critical Writing Fellow teaching writing at University of Pennsylvania and working as Reviews Editor for Jacket2.

Moderator Questions:

1. How can we, and do we want to, separate the writer from the writing?
2. The morality in this new age of consciousness, the #MeToo movement, anti-semitism, have new implications and have increasingly affected the status of major players in all fields. Does this affect writing and literature as well? Should it?

Responses from Participants

Q & A