

Sarah Mason (McKinstry-Brown)
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EDUCATION

- M.F.A. Poetry, University of Nebraska Low Residency Program, 2010
Awarded an *Academy of American Poets Prize*
- M.A. English, to be completed 2020, University of Nebraska at Omaha
- B.A. Creative Writing, Poetry, (Media Arts Minor) University of New Mexico, 2001

HONORS & AWARDS

Sewanee Writers' Conference Tennessee Williams Scholarship in poetry, University of the South, TN: Summer 2018. NAC Individual Artist Fellowship Award, 2018. Bread Loaf General Contributor, 2016. Semi-Finalist, SPIR at the University of Mississippi, 2016. Nebraska Book Award for Poetry Anthology (The Untidy Season), 2014. University of Nebraska MFA Visiting Alumna Faculty, 2014. Pushcart Prize Nominee 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018. Kimmel Harding Nelson Center for the Arts Residency, 2012. Nebraska Book Award for Poetry (Cradling Monsoons), 2011. Blue Light Book Award, 2010. Academy of American Poets Prize, 2010. Blue Light Poetry Prize, 2008.

PUBLICATIONS

Book

Cradling Monsoons. Blue Light Press, 2010. Winner of the Blue Light Poetry Prize, selected by Diane Frank.
This Bright Darkness. Black Lawrence Press, 2019.

Chapbook

When You Are Born. Blue Light Press, 2005. Winner of the Blue Light Book Award.

Anthologized Poetry

Nebraska Poetry: A Sesquicentennial Anthology, 1867-2017 (ed. Daniel Simon), Stephen F. Austin University Press: "After 13 Months of Searching The Girl's Body Is Found Five Miles From Our House" & "Wishes"
River of Earth and Sky: Poems for the 21st Century (ed. Diane Frank), Blue Light Press: "1001 Loads of Laundry"
The History of a Day (ed. Liz Kay & Jen Lambert), Burnt Books: "Still Life with Grieving Parents"
Nebraska Presence: An Anthology of Poetry (ed. Mary Kay Stillwell and Greg Kosmiski), Backwaters Press: "Music Appreciation 101"
A Bigger Boat: The Unlikely Success of Albuquerque's Poetry Slam Scene (ed. Susan McAllister and Don McIver), University of New Mexico Press: "After The Ultrasound, Week 12"
The Spoken Word Revolution Redux (ed. Mark Eleveld), Sourcebooks MediaFusion: "You Are Dangerous"
The Great American Roadshow (ed. J.V. Brummels and Jim Reese), Logan House Press: "Origami Girl," "Blue Devils," & "Suicide"
Freedom to Speak (ed. Scott Woods and Debora Marsh), The Wordsmith Press: "Paralyzed Night"
From the Page to the Stage and Back Again (ed. Michael Salinger), The Wordsmith Press: "Dropping Hints"
Slamma Lamma Ding Dong, an Anthology of Nebraska's Slam Poets (ed. JM Huscher), iUniverse: "Transplant," "In the Sixth Month," & "Dropping Hints"

Harwood Review: An Anthology (ed. Becky Holtzman and Susan McAllister), Old School Books: "Sophia"

Selected Poems

Smartish Pace, "Demeter's Statement," "Chorus: The Newscasters," & "Chorus: The Mothers of Tomboys Explain Crypsis," Issue 24, February (2017)
HOUSEGUEST, "Demeter, on Hope," "Demeter Prepares Persephone for Departure," "Persephone Says Goodbye to Her Mother," "Demeter Watches Her Daughter Walk Away," "Demeter: On the Eve of the First Frost," "Demeter: First Snow," "Chorus: The Mothers Comfort Demeter," Issue 8, November (2016)
RATTLE, "Letter to Myself Fifteen Years After The Affair," Summer (2016)
Tinderbox Poetry Journal, "Demeter Explains Her Sorrow," Winter (2016)
Green Mountains Review, "At Her Mirror," Spring (2016)
South Dakota Review, "Persephone in a Crowd, Watching a Wedding Procession," "Persephone Learns Her Power Among Men," "After a Fight with Her Mother, Persephone Writes Hades," "Persephone Advises Girls on The Cusp," "Demeter Tries to Make Peace with Her Daughter," & "Chorus: The Mothers Advise Girls on the Cusp," Volume 52, Issues 3-4
Sugar House Review, "Epithalamium (Persephone's Song for the Bride To Be)," "Persephone's Guilt," "Persephone Tries to Grasp Autumn," and "Persephone, Watching the Spring Storm Roll in," Spring/Summer (2015)
The Briar Cliff Review, "Persephone's Thirst" and "Demeter Writes Hades," Spring (2015)
burntdistrict, "Persephone, Stumbling into The Light," "Persephone Writes Her Mother," "Persephone Resists," Winter (2014)
Ruminate, "God as DJ" and "After: A Post-9-11 All-American Love Poem," Winter (2013)
The South Dakota Review, "Genealogy," Winter (2012)
Plainsongs, "Frida Finally Leaves Diego and Moves to Nebraska," Winter (2010)
The Cimarron Review, "Flowering," Summer (2009)
Chicago Quarterly Review, "Letter to the Land of My Birth," (2009)
The Sow's Ear Poetry Review, "Whitman's Heaven," Summer (2009) and "Deadline," Winter (2009)
The Omaha World Herald, "In The Sixth Month," December (2005)
The West Virginia Standardized Test for Tenth Graders, "Small Disasters & Infinite Beauty," (2003)
 Spoken Word CD: *Transplant*. Produced by Daniel Solis. Composed and recorded by Deborah Orolofsky at Big Rock Studios. Albuquerque, NM (2004)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Nebraska English Department, Omaha, NE: August 2018-Present

- First Year Teaching Assistant
English Composition I.

University of Nebraska Thompson Learning Community, Omaha, NE: January 2011-Present

- Creative Writing Instructor
Autobiographical Reading and Writing
Autobiographical Reading and Writing, Intervention

University of Nebraska Writer's Workshop, Omaha, NE: January 2011-May 2014

- Creative Writing Instructor

Introduction to Creative Writing
Fundamentals of Poetry
Form & Theory: Poetry as Witness

Lied Center for Performing Arts, Lincoln, NE (in partnership with The Kennedy Center, Washington, D.C.): January 2011-Present

- Arts Integration Teaching Specialist/Teaching Artist UmoNhoN Nation Public Schools
I design curriculum and teach for this nationally recognized arts integration program, visiting rural and urban schools in Nebraska to teach students and their teachers methods for integrating poetry into core curriculum for grades K-12

Nebraska Writers Collective, Omaha, NE: August 2016-August 2018

- Teaching Artist
I act as a Louder than a Bomb Poetry & Performance Coach for high school aged youth at UmoNhoN Nation Public Schools in Macy, NE.

Artist Inc. Omaha Creative Institute, Omaha, NE November 2014- November 2016

- Peer Facilitator
I served as a Peer Facilitator for Artist INC, a program hosted by the non-profit, arts organization Omaha Creative Institute. This eight-week seminar selects artists from all disciplines to receive the tools, resources, and opportunities necessary to develop their entrepreneurial skills and strengthen their artistic practice.

Midland Lutheran College, Fremont, NE: Fall 2010

- Creative Writing Instructor
Advanced Poetry/Online

Freelance Poetry Workshop Facilitator, Omaha, NE, April 2002-Present

- *I design and facilitate creative writing workshops for adults of all ages and abilities in multiple venues including, but not limited to, KANEKO, UNMC's Weigel Williamson Center for Visual Rehabilitation, College Possible, Heartland Family Services, Securities America, Hillcrest Health Systems, Omaha Creative Institute, the Good Samaritan Society of Millard, and area high schools.*

CURATORIAL PROJECTS

Founder & Curator of *feedback at KANEKO Reading Series*, Omaha, NE July 2014 – October 2018

- Book featured writers
- Host and facilitate readings and workshops
- Secure funding, including writing supplemental grant content and contracts
- Assess program impact through methods including surveys and questionnaires
- Write press releases and participate in print and radio interviews to promote quarterly readings

Conversations On a Bus, A Photo Essay Project, Omaha Creative Institute, Omaha, NE: 2012

- Creative Consultant
- Editor
- Curator

Artists in Recovery, Finding a Voice Project, Omaha Creative Institute with UNMC, Omaha, NE: 2012

- Creative Consultant
- Editor
- Director

EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

Spark Wheel Press

- Editorial Board Member: 2012 – present

Burntdistrict

- Guest Editor, Spring 2017

Academy of American Poets Prize

- Juror for UN MFA: 2016

Kimmel Harding Nelson Center for the Arts

- Juror (Writing) : 2016-2017

Backwaters Press

- Editor, The Untidy Season: An Anthology of Nebraska's Women Poets: 2013

Lincoln: J&L Lee Co

- *Research Assistant to Dr. Oliver Pollak on A State of Readers: Nebraska's Carnegie Libraries, 2005 *Credited under the name "Sarah Mason."

the rag (Zine)

- Editor, 1999-2001

PUBLIC ART PROJECTS

Poetry featured in conjunction with Bill Hoover's art as part of *fenestrato*, 2013

Poetry featured on Omaha's bus benches as part of *Benchmarks Public Arts Project*, 2005

Poetry featured on Albuquerque's Metro buses as part of *Magnifico's Tumblewords Project*, 2000

 SELECTED PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS

- How Instant Odes Create Lasting Impressions*: Mount Marty College, Yankton, SD: April 2017
- Anatomy of a Book: Practical Tips on Writing and Finding a Home for Your Unique Body of Work*: Metropolitan Community College Creative Writing Forum, Omaha, NE: October 2017
- In Your Own Words: Writing Our Passions, Honoring Our Obsessions*: KANEKO, Omaha, NE: March 2017
- In Your Own Words: A Workshop for Writers*: KANEKO, Omaha, NE: June 2016
- Let's Keep it Simple: Using Poetry to Stir Curiosity and Increase Comprehension*, The Lied Center for Performing Arts Teacher PD Arts Integration Workshop, Lincoln, NE: October 2015
- Intimate Impressionism and the Persona Poem*, University of Mankato, Mankato, MN: February, 2014
- Performance Poetry: Giving Voice to Student Participants*, ESU 3, Grades 5-8, Omaha, NE: May 2013 - present
- Lasting Results with an Instant Ode*, Teacher PD Arts Integration Workshop, UmoNhoN Nation Public School, Macy, NE: November 2014
- Body Language: Engaging the Five Senses to Make Writing a Physical Experience for Students*, The Lied Center for Performing Arts, Teacher PD Arts Integration Workshop, Omaha, NE: 2014
- The Persona Poem: Breathing Life into Core Curriculum*, UmoNhoN Nation Public School Teacher PD Arts Integration Workshop, Macy, NE: April 2013
- How to Build a Writing Life Post-MFA*, University of Nebraska, Omaha, NE: June, 2013
- How to Survive Your First Year of Teaching at the University Level*, University of Nebraska, Omaha, NE: June 2012
- The Persona Poem: A Gateway to The Political Poem*, sponsored by A Room of Her Own Foundation, Albuquerque, NM: August 2005

 SELECTED READINGS

- Randolph College Visiting Writers Series, Lynchburg, VA: February 2019
- Nebraska Poetry: A Sesquicentennial Anthology, 1867-2017, Omaha, NE: April 2017
- Nebraska Poetry: A Sesquicentennial Anthology, 1867-2017, Lincoln, NE: April 2017
- Words 4 Birds*: Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Society, Denton, NE: April 2017
- Backwaters Press Presents*, Omaha, NE: June 2016
- Peru State College, Peru, NE: April 2016
- Poetry and Parenthood from US to Iceland-City of Literature*, Reykjavik, Iceland: June 2016
- Rattle Reading Series*, La Canada, CA: July 2016
- Sparkwheel Press and The Bike Union Present: *Books, Bikes & Brews*, Omaha, NE: March 2016
- Imaginary Gardens Reading Series*, Omaha, NE: January 2015
- The Good Thunder Reading Series*, The University of Mankato, Mankato, MN: February, 2014
- The Untidy Season Reading*: Creighton University, Omaha, NE: March 2014

Buffalo Commons Storytelling Festival, McCook, NE: June 2013 & 2014
Letras y Voces, El Museo Latino Reading Series, Omaha, NE: April 2013
 Briar Cliff University, Sioux City, IA: October 2012
John H. Ames Reading Series, Lincoln, NE: January 2012
University of Nebraska at Omaha's Missouri Valley Reading Series, Omaha, NE: April 2011
 Nebraska Book Festival: *Cultivating Creativity*, Lincoln, NE: May 2011
 The Willa Cather Spring Conference, Red Cloud, NE: May 2011
Church of Beethoven, Albuquerque, NM: June 2011
East of Edith Reading Series, Albuquerque, NM: June 2011
1000 Poets for Change, Lincoln, NE: June 2011
The Nebraska Arts Council Braided River Series, Omaha, NE: September 2011
 The Writer's Place, Kansas City, MO: September 2011
 Metropolitan Community College, Omaha, NE: October 2011 & 2014
University of Nebraska at Omaha Library's Criss Reading Series, Omaha, NE: December 2010
 Backwaters Press: Reading with Utica's Poet Laureate, Jay Leeming, Omaha, NE: April 2010
The Empty Room Reading Series, Omaha, NE: October 2009
 RNG Gallery, Omaha, NE: September 2009
Vermillion Literary Festival, University of South Dakota, Vermillion, SD: October 2007 & 2011
 Mount Mary College, Yankton, SD: October 2007, 2011, 2012, 2017.
The Milton Writer's Conference, Vermillion, SD: October 2007
 North Omaha Kiwanis Club 25th Anniversary Celebration, Omaha, NE: April 2006
Wave Books Poetry Tour Bus, Omaha, NE: April 2006
The Visiting Writers Series, Northeast Community College, Norfolk, NE: November 2005, 2011 & 2017
 The Holland Performing Arts Center, Day of the Arts, Omaha, NE: April 2006
Women of Note, Lincoln, NE: April 2005
 Doane College, Crete, NE: April 2005
The Downtown Omaha Literary Festival, Omaha, NE: October 2005, 2006 & 2007
Reynolds Writers and Readers Series, University of Nebraska at Kearney, Kearney, NE: October 2005, 2006
Joslyn College Night, Joslyn Art Museum, Omaha, NE: April 2004
Spoken Word Hour, KUNM FM, Albuquerque, NM: June 2004
 Midland Lutheran College, Fremont, NE: December 2004 & 2005
 Morningside College, Sioux City, IA: October 2004
MetroPoet Weekly Reading Series, Norman, OK: May 2003
 Galileo's, Oklahoma City, OK: May 2003
Boheme Poetry Slam, Ames, IA: May 2003
8 Counts/24 Collaborative art/dance/poetry, Sokol Hall, Omaha, NE: May 2003
 Briar Cliff University, Sioux City, IA: October 2003, 2004 & 2005
Brownville Festival for the Book, Brownville, NE: October 2003, 2006, 2009 & 2011
 Nebraska Book Festival, Lincoln, NE: October 2007
 Nebraska's Festival for the Book: *Books Alive*, Omaha, NE: October 2003
 Nebraska Book Festival: *A Sense of Time, A Sense of Place*, Grand Island, NE: September 2002
 The Wild Burro Bookstore, Hot Springs, SD: June, 2002
The Plains Poetry Festival, Wayne State College, Wayne, NE: November 2002, 2003 & 2011
Performance Poetry: A Special Presentation, Midland Lutheran College, Fremont, NE: April, 2010 & 2008
 Touring Performance Poet/Slam Circuit: Venues across the United States: January 2002 – May 2002

 SELECTED INTERVIEWS & PRESS

Articles

Anderson, Julie. "A Two-Poet Family: Matt and Sarah Mason Balance Parenthood and Writing Award-Winning Poetry." *The Omaha World Herald*, April 2012.

Carpenter, Kim. "The Masons." *Her Family/Omaha Magazine*, Aug 2015, omahamagazine.com/articles/tag/sarah-mckinstry-brown/.

Dinsmoor, Andrew. "Cradling Monsoons." *The Gateway*, April 2011.

Logan, Casey. "Local artist paints blindfolded, still hasn't seen some of his own work," *The Omaha World Herald*, Nov 2013.

Schweiss, Kara. "Between The Lines." *The Reader*, Sept 2016, thereader.com/topics/sarah-mckinstry-brown/.

Walsh, Lori. "Voices of Independence: Four Regional Poets Worth Celebrating," *SheMagazine*, July 2011.

Blogs

Geary, Brandon Pierce. "BOOK REVIEW: Cradling Monsoons (poems by Sarah McKinstry-Brown)." *The OMAHYPE arts blog*, 26 May 2011, blog.omahype.com/2011/05/book-review-cradling-monsoons-by-sarah-mckinstry-brown/

McKinstry-Brown, Sarah. Interview by Les Femmes Folles. *Les Femmes Folles: Women in Art*, 30 Nov 2011, femmesfollesnebraska.tumblr.com/search/sarah+mckinstry-brown.

Radio/Television

"Ames Reading Series April 2, 2017, 'Nebraska Poetry: A Sesquicentennial Anthology, 1867-2017.'" *5 City TV*, 6 April 2017, archive.org/details/Ames_Reading_Series_April_2_2017_Nebraska_Poetry_-_A_Sesquicentennial_Anthology_1867-2017.

"Ames Reading Series: Sarah McKinstry-Brown." *YouTube*, uploaded by 5 City TV, 25 Jan 2012, www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZZzBObogDUY.

"Backwaters Press Presents Sarah McKinstry-Brown." *YouTube*, uploaded by Rex Walton, 2 Aug 2016, www.youtube.com/watch?v=eYjFsANr4I8.

"Feedback with John Price and Denise Chapman." *Vimeo*, uploaded by KANEKO, 7 Jan 2016, vimeo.com/151046207.

Hirschhorn, Corbin. "Kaneko's Free Writing Workshop, 'In Your Own Words.'" *KVNO News*, 3 March 2017, www.kvnnews.com/2017/03/kanekos-free-writing-workshop-words/.

"Sarah McKinstry-Brown at Mo Java – May 2016." *YouTube*, uploaded by Rex Walton, 19 May 2016, www.youtube.com/watch?v=M59Q0004BVo.

ACADEMIC MEMBERSHIPS & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

“Writing Across the Curriculum Faculty Seminar.” Sponsored by the UNO Writing Center and the Center for Faculty Development. University of Nebraska at Omaha, January 2013.

Nebraska Writing Center Consortium: “Cultivating a Pedagogy of Peace in the Writing Center.” Metropolitan Community College, Omaha, NE. September 2018.

Paul Kei Matsuda Lecture: “Teaching Second Language Writers in all Classrooms.” University of Nebraska at Omaha, Omaha, NE. September 2018.

Academy of American Poets: 2010-Present

Association of Writing Professionals: 2012-Present

REFERENCES

Dr. Tammie Kennedy
Associate Professor, UNO
tmkennedy@unomaha.edu

Nancy Engen-Wedin
Education & Grant Programs
Kennedy Center Partners in Education for The Lied Center for Performing Arts
nengenwedn2@unl.edu

Michael Hollins,
Chief Creative Officer, Pottawattamie Arts, Culture & Entertainment
michael@PACEartsiowa.org

Stacey Waite
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staceywaite@gmail.com

William Trowbridge
Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Northwest Missouri State University
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