

Ruth Ellen Kocher, Professor
Department of English, University of Colorado- Boulder

EDUCATION

Arizona State University Doctor of Philosophy in American Literature Arizona State University Master of Fine Arts, Creative Writing Pennsylvania State University Bachelor of Arts, English: Literature and Creative Writing	Tempe, AZ May 1999 Tempe, AZ May 1994 University Park, PA December 1990
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FACULTY and LEADERSHIP APPOINTMENTS 2006-present

Director, Strategic Programs, College of Arts and Sciences, July 1 2021 - August, 2022.
Senior Associate Dean for Special Programs, College of Arts and Sciences/Arts and Humanities, University of Colorado-Boulder July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021
Associate Dean, Divisional Dean, College of Arts and Sciences/Arts and Humanities, University of Colorado-Boulder July 2017-June 30, 2020
Chair, Department of English, University of Colorado-Boulder. August 2016- July 2017.
Professor, Department of English, University of Colorado-Boulder. August 2014 – present.
Associate Professor, Department of English, University of Colorado-Boulder. August 2006-August 2014.

BOOK PUBLICATION

Archon / After, Oakland, CA: Omnidawn Publishing, *forthcoming* September, 2024
godhouse, Oakland, CA: Omnidawn Publishing, November, 2023
Third Voice, North Adams, MA: Tupelo Press, Spring 2016
Ending in Planes, Mesilla Park, NM: Noemi Press, Fall 2014 (Winner of the Noemi Press Prize in Poetry).
Goodbye Lyric: The Gigans and Lovely Gun, Rhinebeck, NY: Sheep Meadow Press, Spring 2014
domina Un/blued, North Adams, MA: Tupelo Press, April 2013 (Winner of the Dorset Prize and the PEN/Open Book Award 2014).
One Girl Babylon, Kalamazoo, MI: New Issues Poetry and Prose, 2003.
When the Moon Knows You're Wandering, Kalamazoo, MI: New Issues Poetry and Prose, 2002 (Winner of the Green Rose Prize in Poetry).
Desdemona's Fire, Detroit, MI: Lotus Press, 1999 (Winner of the Naomi Long Madgett Poetry Prize)

ESSAY and ARTICLE PUBLICATION 2012-present

"On Joy as a Site of Resistance." *The Academy of American Poets and Poets.Org*, <https://poets.org/academy-american-poet>, April 2020
"Aporia and the Poetics of Beauty as Non-resolution." *Seeding the Future of African American Poetry: The Furious Flower Anthology*, vol. 3, Northwestern UP, December 16, 2019.
"F/fabula A/anima: Reading Bhanu Kapil's "Writing/not-writing: th[a][e] Diasporic Self: Notes Towards a Race Riot." *English Language Notes* 1 March 2012; 50 (1): 47 –53.

DIGITAL POETRY AND FILM

Poetry Foundation Digital Curation, *the last gods* (film), October, 2022
CURA Fordham University, "A Final Anatomy of Melancholy." Spring 2016
Poets & Writers Magazine Featured Film, "The Body Is An Imposter." Spring 2015
Trickhouse: The Parlour. "After Wind, with Art from Krista Franklin." April 2011

ANTHOLOGY 2006-present

Infinite Constellations: An Anthology of Identity, Culture, and Speculative Conjunctions, Queen, Khadijah, and K. Ibura, Eds. FC2, an imprint of the University of Alabama Press, 2023
Best American Poetry 2019, David Lehman and Major Jackson, eds., Scribner, 2019.
Letters to the Future: Anthology of Innovative Writing by Black Women, Kore Press, Tuscan, AZ 2019.

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- Resisting Arrest: Poems to Stretch the Sky*, Tony Medina, ed. Jacar Press, Durham, North Carolina 2016.
- "Skit: Sun Ra Welcomes The Fallen" *Best American Experimental Writing*, Douglas Kearney, Seth Abramson, Jesse Damiani, eds. Wesleyan UP, 2015
- Angles of Ascent: A Norton Anthology of Contemporary African American Poets*. Charles Rowell, ed. W.W. Norton & Company. February 4, 2013.
- IOU: New Writing On Money*. Ron Slate, ed. Concord Free Press, Massachusetts, 2010
- "Professor Lacy N. Igga Looks Up The Word 'Parasomnia.'"
- Black Nature*. Camille T. Dungy, ed. University of Georgia Press, Athens Georgia, 2009.
- From the Fishhouse: An Anthology of Poems that Sing, Rhyme, Resound, Syncopate, Alliterate, and Just Plain Sound Great*. Camille T. Dungy, Matt O'Donnell, & Jeffrey Thomson eds., Persea Books, NY, New York, 2009.
- The McSweeney's Book of Poets Picking Poets*, Dominic Luxford, ed. McSweeney's Books: San Francisco, 2007.
- Gathering Ground: A Reader Celebrating Cave Canem's First Decade*. University of Michigan, 2006, Kalamazoo.
- An Anthology of Creative Writing: Garden of Forking Paths*. Beth Anstandig and Eric Killough, eds. Prentice Hall, 2006.

JOURNAL PUBLICATION SINCE 2006-present

- "our agreeable end," *Indiana Review* 44.1 (Summer, 2022)
- "in regard to beginning," *Indiana Review* 44.1 (Summer, 2022)
- "god of worship," *Indiana Review* 44.1 (Summer, 2022)
- "the last gods," *Poetry Magazine* (October 2022)
- "god of wanting to know where to be," Interim, *Black The [Or] Y: Praxis, Sum Unknown*, 38.4 (Winter 2021)
- "the last gods," Interim, *Black The [Or] Y: Praxis, Sum Unknown*, 38.4 (Winter 2021).
- "We May No Longer Consider the End," *Academy of American Poets, Poem-A-Day, Digital Curation*.
- "After Quiet: The Black Writer in Spaces of Privilege." *Entropy Magazine* (Spring 2016) "Skyline Aftermath." *At Length Magazine* (Summer 2016) "Manifesto for an Aftermath." *Entropy Magazine* (Fall 2016) "#106LinesOnBlacknessForWhitePoetsAndPolicemen." *The Literary Review* (Spring 2016)
- "Skit: Sun Ra Welcomes the Fallen." *The Academy of American Poets Feature, Poem-A-Day* (February 2016) *Digital Circulation*. "#29LinesOnBlacknessForWhitePoetsAndPolicemen." *The Colorado Review* (Spring 2015)
- "Insomnia Cycle 44." *The Enemy* (Winter 2015)
- "Diaspora III or Geordi "The Form" of Space." *Taos Journal of Poetry and Art* 5 (September 2014)
- "When She is Awake." *Taos Journal of Poetry and Art* 5 (September 2014)
- "Forms of Range and Loathing." *Academy of American Poets, Poem-A-Day*.
- "Cartographilia." *The Paris-American* (August 2013)
- "Gospelizing." *The Paris-American* (August 2013)
- "Sequence Ending in Desire VI." *Phantom Limb* 7 (March 2013)
- "Sequence Ending in Desire V." *Phantom Limb* 7 (March 2013)
- "Sequence Ending in Desire IV." *Phantom Limb* 7 (March 2013)
- "Sequence Ending in Desire III." *Phantom Limb* 7 (March 2013)
- "Sequence Ending in Desire II." *Phantom Limb* 7 (March 2013)
- "Sequence Ending in Desire I." *Phantom Limb* 7 (March 2013)
- "Formal Poetry and Ekphrastic Prose, a Conversation." *Sou'wester* (Winter 2011)
- "Gigan 13." *Sou'wester* (Winter 2011)
- "Gigan 34." *Sou'wester* (Winter 2011)
- "Insomnia Cycle 42." *American Letters and Commentary* 22 (2011)
- "Stay." *Diode* 4:2 (2011)
- "Death and Petunias." *Diode* 4:2 (2011)
- "Cycle." *Copper Nickel* 16 (2011)

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"Equation." *Copper Nickel* 16 (2011)
"MLK Jr. and Lt. Uhuru Have Coffee and Cake." *Coon Bidness* (2011, March)
"Diaspora III or Jordy "the form" of Space." *Coon Bidness* (2011, March)
"Lacy Watches Richard Pryor Talk About Love." *Coon Bidness* (2011, March)
"Beauty is No Abstract Thought." *TitMouse* 1:2 (Spring 2011)
"Insomnia Cycle 6." *TitMouse* 1:2 (Spring 2011)
"When You Say Grotesque." *The Medulla Review* (Spring 2011). (Pushcart Prize Nomination)
"Somnus 4." *Torch* (Spring/Summer 2010). [accompanying interview]
"Insomnia Cycle 22." *Torch* (Spring/Summer 2010).
"Insomnia Cycle 65." *Torch* (Spring/Summer 2010).
"Somnus Cycle 5." *Torch* (Spring/Summer 2010). [
"Gigan 43." *Pilgrimage: Story, Place, Spirit* 34:2 (Spring 2010).
"Gigan 59." *Pilgrimage: Story, Place, Spirit* 34:2 (Spring 2010).
"Gigan 23." *Pilgrimage: Story, Place, Spirit* 34:2 (Spring 2010).
"Law of Suspects." *Anti-* (April 2010).
"Anno Domini." *Toronto Quarterly* (March 2010).
"M/meditation I Dominance." *Eleven Eleven* (January 2010).
"M/meditation II Submission." *Eleven Eleven* (January 2010).
"string theory." *Blackbird* 8:2 (Fall 2009).
"Alice Coltrane Discovers the World and G/god is Born." *Blackbird* 8:2 (Fall 2009).
"Anatomy of a Mule." *ditch* 6 (April 2009).
"Doctrine of Release." *ditch* 6 (April 2009).
"The Window Cleaner Dreams of Grass." *ditch* (April 2009).
"Exercise 3." *Superstition Review* 3 (Spring 2009).
"Exercise 17." *Superstition Review* 3 (Spring 2009).
"Exercise 4." *Superstition Review* 3 (Spring 2009).
"Lesson: Daphne as Tree Forgetting." *Superstition Review* 3 (Spring 2009).
"Lesson: writing Not the Personal." *Superstition Review* 3 (Spring 2009).
"Lesson: She as Lotus Eater." *Superstition Review* 3 (Spring 2009).
"Lesson: Looking Away." *Superstition Review* 3 (Spring 2009).
"Transatlantic Catalogue with Distant Voice Refrain." *The Cartier Street Review* (Spring 2009).
"Translation Exercise 2." *The Cartier Street Review* (Spring 2009).
"Stealing a Woman in Broad Daylight." *The Cartier Street Review* (Spring 2009).
"Daughter." *Denver Quarterly* (Fall 2007).
"When Zeus Swallowed Metis." *Drunken Boat* (Winter 2006/2007).
"Learning to be Middle Class Checklist." *Drunken Boat* (Winter 2006/2007).
"Continuum." *Drunken Boat* (Winter 2006/2007).
"26." *ninth letter* (Winter 2006/2007).
"29." *ninth letter* (Winter 2006/2007)
"38." *ninth letter* (Winter 2006/2007)
"41." *Torch* (November 2006)
"2." *Crab Orchard Review* 11:2 (Spring 2006)
"3." *Crab Orchard Review* 11:2 (Spring 2006)
"15." *Crab Orchard Review* 11:2 (Spring 2006)
"19." *Crab Orchard Review* 11:2 (Spring 2006)
"Walking Stick." *Cimarron Review* (Spring 2006)

HONORS, AWARDS and GRANTS 2011-present

Excellence In Leadership Award, University of Colorado, Fall 2023.
Distinguished Professor, University of Colorado, Fall 2021
Excellence in Research and Teaching, Boulder Faculty Assembly, Spring 2021
Beaux Boudreaux Visiting Writer Series Award,
University of Southern California, January 2020
MacDowell Artists Fellowship, 2019 (Residency, May 2020)

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Vermont Studio Center Fellowship, 2018 (Residency, July 2020)
MacDowell Artists Fellowship, 2016 (Residency, June-July 2017)
Colorado Book Award, Finalist
Pushcart Prize Nomination, “#106LinesOnBlacknessForWhitePoetsAndPolicemant,” *The Literary Review* (in progress)
Rilke Prize for *Third Voice*, Finalist 2017
National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, December 2016
Noemi Press Book Prize
Kayden Book Award, 2015, *domina Un/blued*, Tupelo Press 2013
PEN/ Open Book Award, 2014, *domina Un/blued*, Tupelo Press, 2013
Finalist, National Book Award 2013, *domina Un/blued*, Tupelo Press, 2013
Pushcart Prize Nomination, “D/domina: Issues Involving Translation,” Tupelo Press 2013
Pope-Woodward Prize for Faculty Publishing, *domina Un/blued*, Department of English CU
Finalist, National Poetry Series 2012, *3rd Voice: Poems*
Finalist, National Poetry Series 2011, *Ending in Planes: Poems*
Finalist, National Poetry Series 2011, *3rd Voice: Poems*
Dorset Prize, Tupelo Press, 2011

SELECTED LITERARY READINGS, LECTURES, PERFORMANCES, AND INTERVIEWS

2010-present

Featured Conference Speaker / Reader, *Thinking Its Presence: An Interdisciplinary Conference on Race, Creative Writing, and artistic and aesthetic practice*. Pomona College, March 30 - April 2, 2023.
Featured Reader, *Associated Writing Programs*, The Matrix: A Writing Collective, Offsite March 10, 2023
Featured Reader, *A Collection of Colorado Poets*, June 2023
Featured Reader, *Omnidawn Publishing 2023 Poets*, June 2023
Panelist, "JFK: The Last Speech," a live screening of the independent film followed by discussion on the theme of "Poetry and Power," July 1, 2021.
Panelist: Cultural Postmortem 2020, Center for Humanities and the Arts (CHA), January 27, 2021.
Panelist: Meet the Veterans: New Chair and Director Orientation, Academic Leadership Institute, August 13, 2021
"Hyper-scheduling toward Time Management: The Ben Franklin method."
"Readings and Commentary on *Third Voice*" Beaux Boudreaux Award Reading, Visiting Writer, University of Southern California, January 2020
"A Documentary Poetics of Race," Beaux Boudreaux Visiting Writer Series Award, University of Southern California, January 2020
"Visioning New Futures" Salon, The Dunbar Pavilion, October 12, Tucson, AZ 2018
Tucson Museum and Center for the Book, University of Arizona, College of Humanities, Humanities Festival, Tucson, AZ October 11, 2018
Salon Reading Series, Virginia Tech Creative Writing Program Featured Reader, September 2017
Feature, Mary Rollins Reading Series, Penn State University, November 2016
University of Montana Reading Series, October 2016
Innisfree Poetry Café and Bookstore Reading, July 2016
Naropa University, Boulder CO, June 2016
Bryant Park Reading Series, Bryant Park NYC, June 2016
The Roots Reading Series, Brooklyn NYC, July 2016
Cave Canem Benefit Gala, Los Angeles, CA March 2016
Tupelo Press Reception Reading, Lost Angeles, CA March 2016
Berg's Poetry Bookstore, New York, NY February 2016
Westminster College, Salt Lake City, UT September 2015
CWP Faculty Reading, Boulder, CO April 2015
Poets' House Reading, New York, NY April 2014
Cave Canem Benefit Reading AWP, Washington, D.C. March 2014
University of Missouri St Louis Noon Series, St. Louis, MO November 2013
University of California Santa Cruz Living Writer's Series, Santa Cruz, CA October 2013
Barrett Honors College Guest Lecture, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ

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September 2013

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Poetry East Guest Lecture and Reading, Colorado Springs, September 2013
Dog Days of Summer Salon Reading, Innisfree Bookstore, Boulder, CO July 2013.
“Writers on Writing” Instructional Series, SFSU, San Francisco CA, April 2013
Featured Poet at “Lit-Fest,” University of Dayton, Dayton, OH April 2013
Keynote Speaker, Poetry Day, Adelphi University, Garden City, NJ, April 2013.
“The Making of *Sl*tbook*: Artbook meets The Word,” with Krista Franklin,
Exhibited at Pace University Library, Pace University, Pleasantville, NY,
Spring 2013
“Poets in the Kitchen: An Interview with Ruth Ellen Kocher,” The Food Poet Blog,
February 2013.
Cave Canem Benefit Reading, Chicago, IL, February 2012. South Bend, IN April
2010

SELECTED CONFERENCE PAPERS 2006-present

Panel Organizer, Presenter: “Writing the Black Body into the White Family,” Killing
the Story to Tell the Self: Innovating Black Women’s Narratives, Associated
Writing Programs Conference, 2020 San Antonio, TX (remote)
Panel Presenter: “The Remedy of Joy,” Meditations in an Emergency: The Lyric
Interior in an Age of Crisis, Associated Writing Programs Conference, 2020
San Antonio, TX (remote)
Panel Presenter: “Race and Writing at the Research I,” Addressing Structural Racism,
Thinking Its Presence: The Ephemera Conference, University of Arizona,
Poetry Center, October, 2017
Panel Presenter: “Writing the Ephemera,” Activating the Afterlife, *Thinking Its
Presence: The Ephemera Conference*, University of Arizona, Poetry Center,
October, 2017
Panel Organizer, Presenter: Legacies of the Badass: Black Feminist Writing in the
Millennium, Associated Writing Programs Conference, Washington D.C.,
February 2017
Panel Organizer, Presenter: De Melancholy Evolution of Me: Resurrecting the Staged
Black Body, featuring 2017 Pulitzer Prize Winner, Tyehimba Jess, Associated
Writing Programs Conference, Washington D.C., February 2017
Panel Presenter, “Object-Oriented Ontology, Tool-Beings, and Disintegration to
Order in Hive Mind Poetics,” Naropa University, Boulder, CO June 2016
Panel Presenter, “Quiet as Protest in Millennial Writing,” Reverberant Silence:
Making and Meaning a New Silence. Los Angeles, CA. March 2016
Panel Organizer, Presenter, “Revisiting 'Embracing the Verb of It: Black Poets
Innovating,’” Associated Writing Programs Conference, Minneapolis, MN April
2015
Panel Presenter, “Fracturations: Meditations on the Politics and Poetics of
Intersectionality,” *Thinking Its Presence: Race and Creative Writing Conference*,
University of Montana, Missoula, MT. March 2015.
Panel Presenter: “What the Dark Cave Took: Mother Fellowships of the Black Avant-
Garde, & Now Literary Festival,” University of Colorado Boulder, Boulder, CO,
September 2013.
Panel Organizer, Presenter, “Embracing the Verb of It: Black Poets Innovating (or
Innovative?) Associated Writing Program Conference, Boston, MA, March 2013.
Panel Organizer, Presenter, “A Different Kind of Hybrid: Race, Innovation, and
Writers of Color,” Associated Writing Programs Conference, Washington, D.C.
February 2011.
Panel Presenter, “The Impetus of Identity in Black Nature Writing,” *Black Nature:
Four Centuries of African American Nature Poetry* at Notre Dame – *A Panel of
Authors*. South Bend, IN, April 2010.
“Traditions and Revisions: Eco-Poetics and Women Writers” Associated Writing
Programs Conference, Denver, CO, April 2010.

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Panel Organizer, Special Session: *Performative Cultures: Functions and Tropes in African American Literature*.

Professional SERVICE and LEADERSHIP 2012-present

Guest Editor, *English Language Notes: Personhood, Spirit, Afterlife, Spring 2023-Spring 2024*

First Round Reviewer, Lilly-Rosenberg Fellowships, Grants and Awards, The Poetry Foundation, Chicago, IL June - August, 2023.

Chair, Search Committee, Assistant Professor of English, Creative Writing Program, Department of English Director, Strategic Programs, the College of Arts and Sciences, University of Colorado, Boulder

Reviewer and Editorial Board member, University of Alaska Press (incl. Univ. of Colorado UP, Utah State University UP, and Univ. of Wyoming UP) August 2022-present.

Senior Associate Dean, Strategic Programs, the College of Arts and Sciences, University of Colorado, Boulder

Divisional Dean/Associate Dean, the College of Arts and Sciences, University of Colorado, Boulder

Department Chair, Department of English, University of Colorado, Boulder
Strategic Planner and Founding Board Member, RASA: Race and Solidarity in the Arts

Boulder Faculty Assembly Executive Committee, 2012-2014

Co-Chair, Boulder Faculty Assembly Diversity Committee, 2012-2014

Executive Committee, Department of English, present

Associate Chair and Creative Writing Program Director Department of English, 2011- 2014

University of Colorado 2011-2014 Appeals Committee on Academic Rules and Policies, 2012

Faculty Consultant, Dennis Small Cultural Center, Diversity Spring, 2011

Boulder Faculty Assembly Interim Representative, 2006-07

Honors Council Representative, Aug. 2011 – August 2012

Arts Council, Arts & Sciences Academic and Curricular Affairs, Fall 2009- 2010

Graduate Teacher Training Committee, 2012-2014