

HEIGHTSARTS

EKPHRASTACY

artists talk +
poets respond

Figurative / Abstract

SPOTLIGHT: JANE ALEXANDER

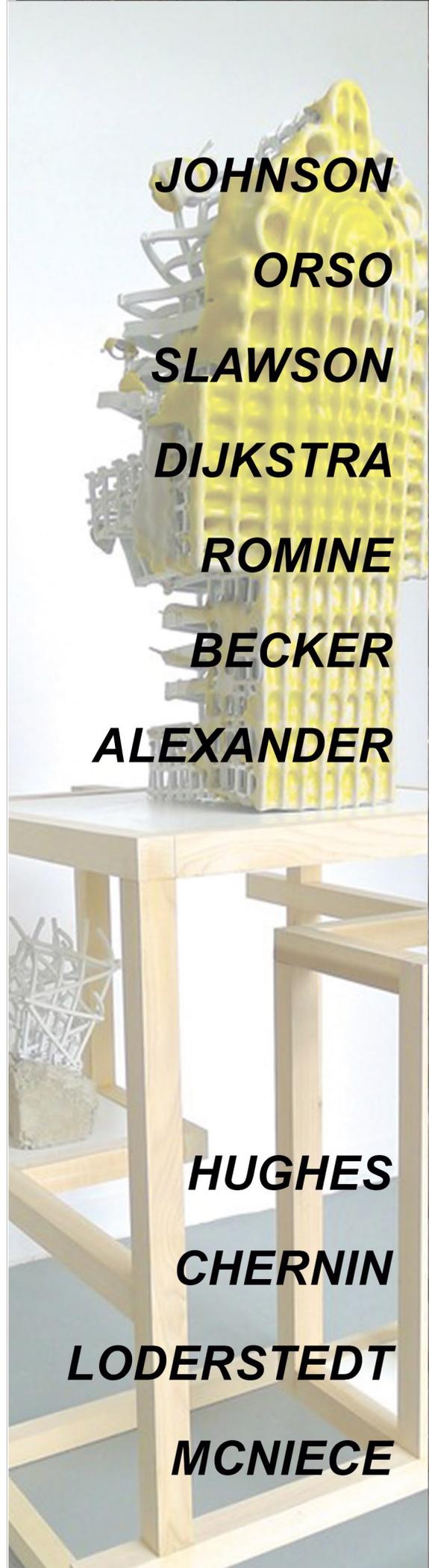
April 21, 2022

2175 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights, Ohio
WWW.HEIGHTSARTS.ORG | 216.371.3457



JOHNSON
ORSO
SLAWSON
DIJKSTRA
ROMINE
BECKER
ALEXANDER

HUGHES
CHERNIN
LODERSTEDT
MCNIECE



ABOUT THE EXHIBITIONS

Figurative/Abstract Curated by Helen Liggett

We begin with the Figure. Then the artists take liberties. And aren't artists always taking liberties?

What if the ability to abstract from the referent enabled classical figurative art and the desire to express (something), and make connections (to ideas, materials, the mind) is foundational in abstract work? Leonardo said in reference to his drawings: "Observation + imagination". He didn't specify how much of each.

In this exhibition, we assume figurative and abstract art are porous categories and ask how contemporary artists navigate the territory.

-Liggett

Spotlight: Jane Alexander

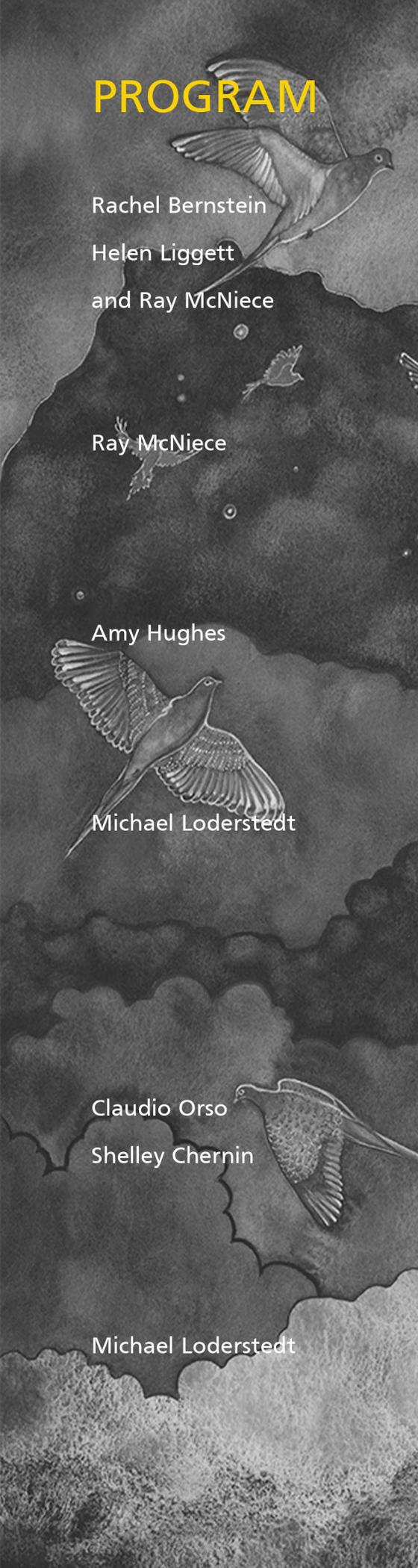
"In the Fall 2019, I drove my youngest across country to college. I left our house in Shaker Heights for a two-bedroom apartment on the west side with a stunning view of Lake Erie. The following year was going to be one of new beginnings and adventures. My eldest's college graduation, the launch of the Cleveland Museum of Art's first digital immersive exhibition, and life on my own to travel and explore. But there were no opening parties, no caps thrown into the air, no spontaneous trips to visit friends. My apartment doubled as my workplace and my job took twice as many hours. I learned the new vocabulary — "WFH," "social distancing," "Jane you're on mute," "what are you bingeing on Netflix?" I purchased my first pair of Lululemon sweats that I wore daily. Everyone was on the hunt for yeast and alcohol, but it was hand sanitizer that was prized.

The lake was my constant companion. It transported me to a specific place, conveyed a distinct mood or state of mind, celebrated life, or reflected loss. The shifting colors revealed the duality of dark reality and bright inspiration. It was my way of exploring while being stuck inside. The lake was my connection with the world, nature, my surroundings. It reminded me that life is fluid and ever-changing – that there is beauty and movement even when we feel trapped in time and space.

No travels, graduations, or hosting people for dinner. But all I need is to look out the window. I am looking at it now. Lake Erie is my anchor."

-Alexander

PROGRAM



Rachel Bernstein

Helen Liggett

and Ray McNiece

Ray McNiece

Amy Hughes

Michael Loderstedt

Claudio Orso

Shelley Chernin

Michael Loderstedt

Introduction

"The Towers Burning Down"

After Peter Christian Johnson's

The Violent Bear It Away

"Everything That Rises"

After Peter Christian Johnson's

Everything that Rises Must Converge

"Ode to Martyrdom"

After Peter Christian Johnson's

*She could never be a saint, but she
thought she could be a martyr if he
killed her quick*

Artist Remarks

"Nanabozho's Mask"

After Claudio Orso's

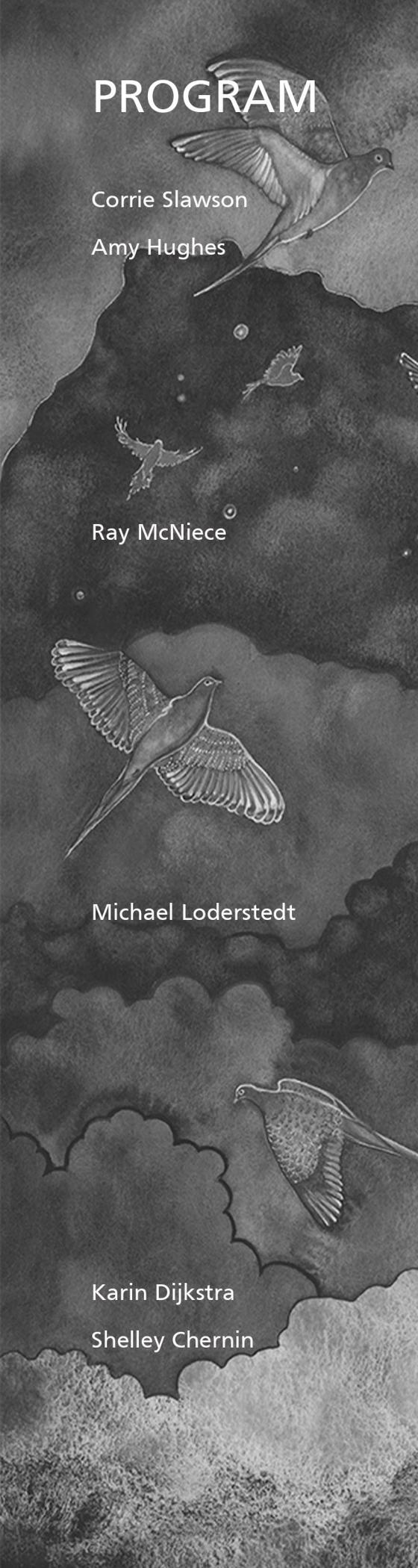
Nanabozho

"Master Peter"

After Claudio Orso's

Master Peter

PROGRAM



Corrie Slawson

Amy Hughes

Ray McNiece

Michael Loderstedt

Karin Dijkstra

Shelley Chernin

Artist Remarks

"Rabbit is Distraught"

After Corrie Slawson's
*Blue footed Boobies are endangered;
Harlequin Toad, now extinct. Rabbit
is distraught.*

"The Polar Bear Stares"

After Corrie Slawson's
*Arctic Ice holds 10% of the world's
fresh water; melting glaciers alter the
ocean through sea level rise and by
changing their circulation (ocean
currents.)*

"Elephant Talk"

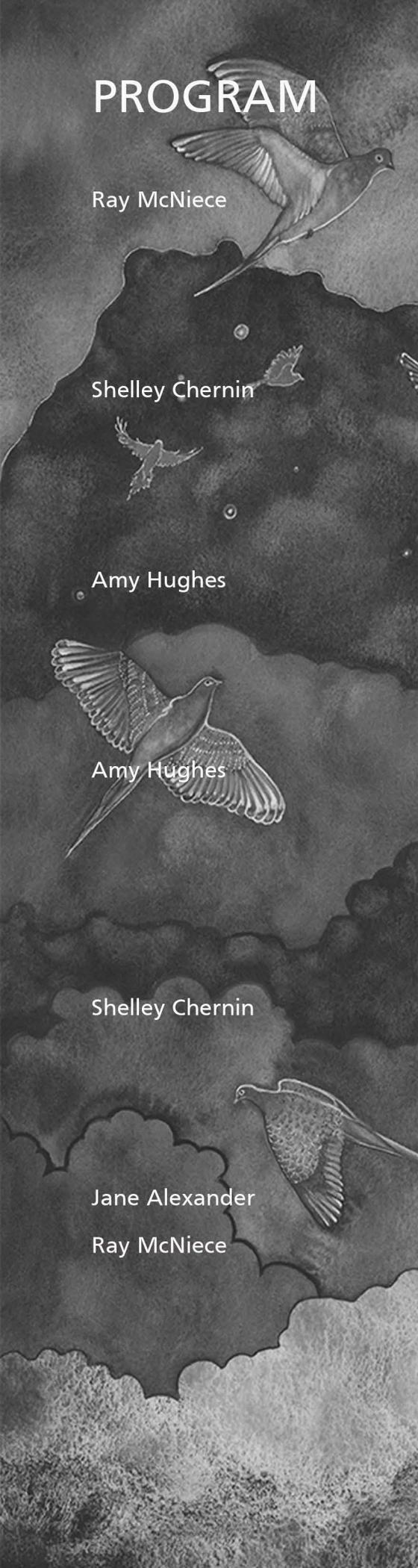
After Corrie Slawson's
*Elephants live in a range of habitats,
exposed to broad climate variability
(offering some resilience.) But
sensitivity to high temperatures and
dwindling fresh water endangers them.*

Artist Remarks

"Keeping Time"

After Karin Dijkstra's
Impromptu

PROGRAM



Ray McNiece

"Yevtushenko and the Birches"

After Karin Dijkstra's

Night Birches

Shelley Chernin

"Thank You & Please Come Again"

After Carmen Romine's

Terminals

Amy Hughes

"Open Space"

After Carmen Romine's

Open Space

Amy Hughes

"Francine Receives Direction on Posing
for the Camera"

After Annie Becker's

Francine poses for the camera

Shelley Chernin

"Progress"

After Annie Becker's

Marty + Pat Canoeing on the Cuyahoga

Jane Alexander

Artist Remarks

Ray McNiece

"Lake Erie Speaks"

After Jane Alexander's

January 29, 2021 9:22 AM

PROGRAM

Michael Loderstedt

"Tempest"

After Jane Alexander's

August 28, 2020 4:08PM

HEIGHTS ARTS UPCOMING EVENTS

HAIKU HIKE - SPRING SESSION April 21st, 10am-12pm
LOCATION: Nature Center at Shaker Lakes

Join Cleveland Heights Poet Laureate Ray McNiece on a seasonal morning ginkgo (haiku walk), learning and creating poetry according to centuries-old traditions. These customs cultivate a seasonal awareness that improves one's powers of poetic and natural observation.

Hikes begin with a formal introduction to haiku, continue with 4 stops along the way, then conclude with a final sharing. Sign up for one session or all seasons in a series we're offering in celebration of Cleveland Heights' centennial anniversary.

\$20.00 General fee
\$15.00 Heights Arts Members fee

WHAT A TIME TO BE ALIVE May 19th - June 12th

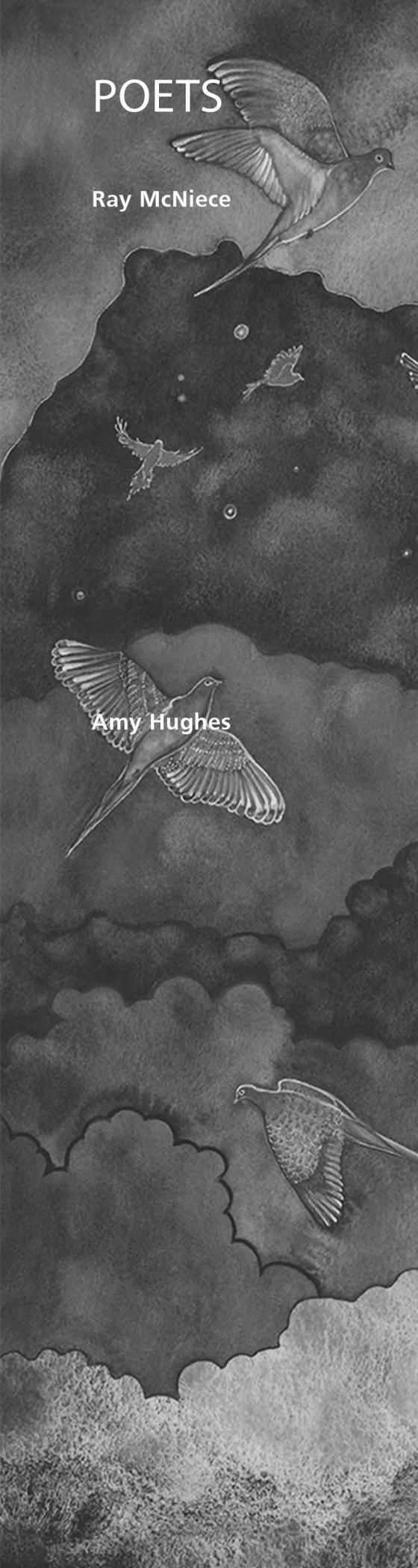
"In an age where connection is king, the miracles of modern life shape a new generation unlike any other. As the children of extremes, extravagance and excess, a unique culture rises from these conditions to shape our collective experience. From social media's unrelenting scrutiny, unpredictable global events and insatiable boredom, the specifics of our lives create our stories. And so we must ask: what defines us? As an era; as a community; as individuals. In collaboration with Cleveland Heights High, we seek to find some answers to this question through our exhibition, "What a Time to Be Alive!"

Statement provided by curators, senior intern Eryn Lawson and junior intern Josie Naypauer, who will also be featured in an accompanying Spotlight exhibition.

EKPHRASTACY:

Ekphrastic poetry is a time-honored form in which the writer is inspired by and responds to a work of art in another discipline such as the visual arts, sculpture, dance and music. The word ekphrastic comes from the Greek word ekphrasis, which means (freely translated) an ecstatic utterance.

POETS



Ray McNiece

Ray McNiece is the Poet-Laureate chosen by Heights Arts through 2022. McNiece is the author of 11 books of poems and monologues, two solo theatre works, two music/poetry collaborations and one collaborative theatre work. He started his own educational company, Page to Stage Productions in 1994. He has worked as a consultant for WordForward in Singapore and for the nationally touring, Poetry Alive. He is also an adjunct professor at John Carroll University. He was recently certified into Young Audiences National Teaching Artist Roster, one of only twenty such teaching artists nationally. Ray McNiece is the Cleveland Arts Prize Lifetime Achievement Award winner for 2021.

Amy Hughes

Amy Hughes is a writer and teacher from Northeast Ohio. She holds degrees from Kent State University and Florida International University, and she has taught writing to middle school, high school, and college students for more than ten years. Her work has appeared in two editions of Tigertail, A South Florida Annual. Today she is a freelance writer and editor, an active member of Literary Cleveland, and a teaching artist with Lake Erie Ink where she leads creative writing workshops for Northeast Ohio students.

POETS



Shelley Chernin

Shelley Chernin is an environmental activist and ukulele enthusiast who has been writing poetry on and off for most of her life. She is the author of *The Vigil*, published by Crisis Chronicles Press in 2012. Her poems have appeared in many journals and anthologies, including *Great Lakes Review*, *Scrivener Creative Review*, *Guide to Kulchur Creative Journal*, *Rhapsodia*, *Durable Goods*, *Big Bridge*, and *Oct Tongue-1*. She was awarded Second Place in the 2011 Hessler Street Fair Poetry Contest and received Honorable Mentions twice in the Akron Art Museum's New Words Poetry Contest. Shelley has read her poems and played ukulele in many venues, including Mac's Backs, Visible Voice Books, Mahall's, The Beachland Ballroom, numerous libraries, coffee shops, parks, bars and street corners.

Michael Loderstedt

Michael Loderstedt is Professor Emeritus of Kent State University where he taught printmaking and photography. His recent manuscript entitled *The Yellowhammer's Cross* received a 2020 Ohio Arts Council Fellowship in Non-Fiction Literature, his recent work has been published in *Neighborhood Voices*, *Muleskinner Journal*, and the *NC Literary Review* (receiving the 2021 James Applewhite Prize for Poetry). His visual work can also be found in the public collections of the Cleveland Museum of Art, Progressive Insurance, the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, the Akron Art Museum and the Kupferstiche Kabinett in Dresden, Germany and others. He is the director of Photocentric, Cleveland's contemporary gallery dedicated to presenting new works in photography (www.photocentricgallery.com). You can follow his projects on Instagram @m_loderstedt.

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