

HEIGHTS **ARTS**

EKPHRASTACY

artists talk +

poets respond

All Access

SPOTLIGHT:

CHARLES

SCHWEIGERT

April 20th, 2023

WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO:

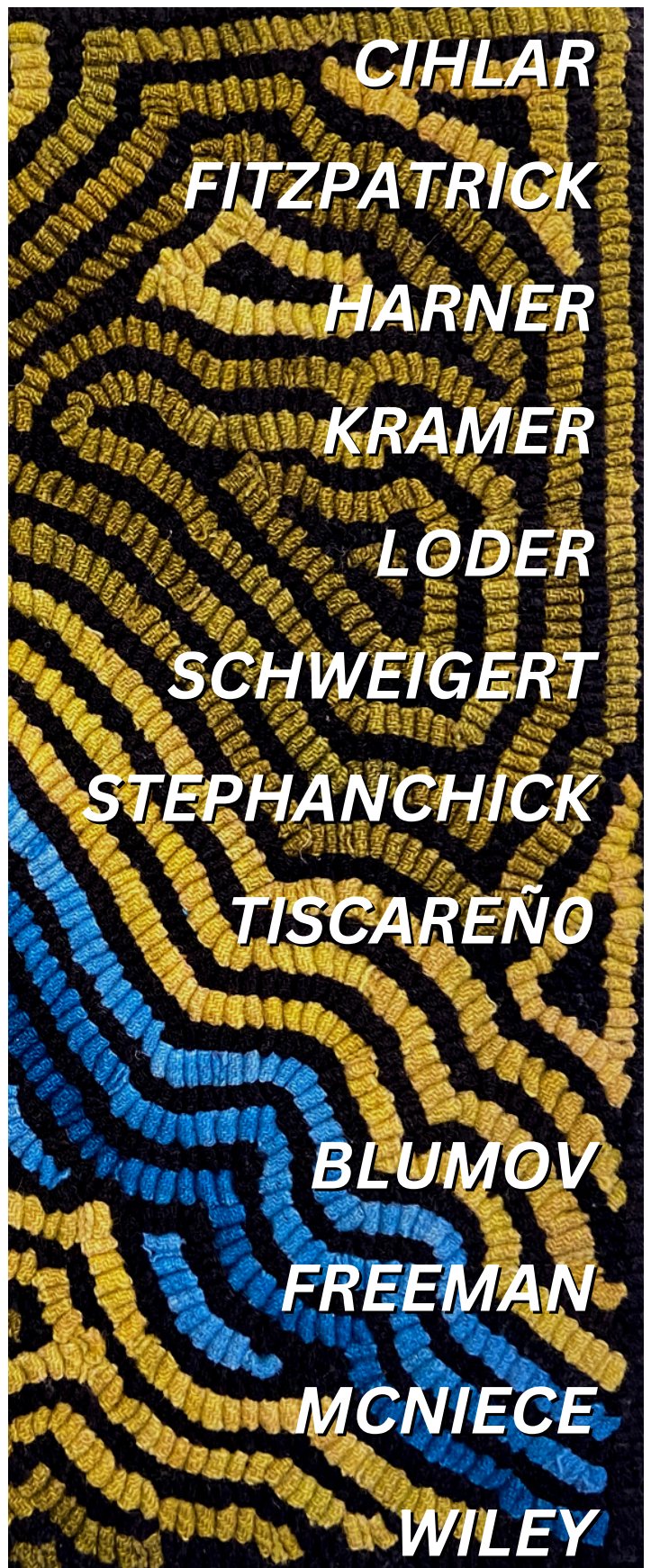
Heights Writes Community Team

Cathy Barber, John Burroughs, Annie Holden,

Ray McNiece, Amy Rosenbluth, Catherine Wing



Use the QR code to download
the program to your device.



ABOUT THE EXHIBITIONS

All Access

Curated by volunteers and staff comprising the Heights Arts Exhibitions Community Team, All Access cuts beneath Cleveland's surface to shine light on facets of valued tradition and modern transition.

Point person for this show and Programs Manager at Heights Arts Tom Masaveg elaborates, "The art in Cleveland now, like the people who live here often reflects our history and adapts with the rapidly changing times. It's important for us at Heights Arts to create experiences that draw from collective identity while celebrating local stories. It's exciting to view the work in this show and feel connected to our past and present as we step into the future of art, together."

Spotlight: Charles Schweigert

"OUT ON A LIMB...Boro Birds and Other Non-native Species Feathers, beaks and claws, outlandish peacocks, and humble street pigeons...what's not to like about a bird? The wall hangings and three-dimensional birds in this show are made using old, weathered fabrics that the Japanese call boro, that have been manipulated in multiple ways, hand-dyed, drawn upon, pieced and hand-sewn together. The fabrics are from Japan and were salvaged from old garments that have been repeatedly patched and mended; over time they take on a remarkable patina and are highly valued in Japanese culture where nothing is wasted and everything is recycled. – The fabrics speak to me and guide my hand as I work on them, dying and painting and piecing and stitching. Likewise, the ceramic birds in this exhibit have a sense about them of something old and weathered that has endured a long, hard life. Perhaps their dinosaur lineage...? Birds have always intrigued me; they are amazing creatures that offer endless possibilities for creative interpretation. Although my birds are not recognizable as any particular species, I like to think of them as expressing the essence of "birdness." And, most assuredly, you won't find any of them in Audubon's Birds of America or in any of the Peterson field guides! "

- Charles Schweigert

PROGRAM

Tom Masaveg
Ray McNiece

R!ch Cihlar

Ray McNiece

Rachel Wiley

Rachel Wiley

Cassandra Harner
Siaara Freeman

Siaara Freeman

Siaara Freeman

Opening Remarks
Opening Remarks

Artist Remarks

“Red Wings”
After R!ch Cihlar’s
Red Winged Black Bird I

“Hive 94”
After R!ch Cihlar’s
Bee 94 I

“Test Pattern”
After Molly Fitzpatrick’s
Traveler

Artist Remarks
“Blitz Poem/The Red Queen”
After Cassandra Harner’s
Queen of Hearts

“I only want Drag Queens to Read to My Children”
After Cassandra Harner’s
Queen of Hearts

"I Am"
After Cassandra Harner’s
The Sullen

PROGRAM

Ray McNiece

“Call Me Cuyahoga”
After Heidi Kramer’s
Cuyahoga

Marcus Loder
Ray McNiece

Artist Remarks
“Cleveland Guardians”
After Marcus Loder’s
Guardian of Growth

Elijah Blumov

“Simulacra”
After Marcus Loder’s
Stained Glass Triptych

Ray McNiece

“Black Birds Gleaning
Ancient Fields”
After Charles Schweigert’s
Tapestry 2

Rachel Wiley

“Spark Bird”
After Charles Schweigert’s
Fabric Bird 72

PROGRAM

Bedel Tescareño

Elijah Blumov

Elijah Blumov

Siaara Freeman

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.

Artist Remarks

“Dies Sanguinis”
After Bedel Tescareño’s
Belona

“Tlaloc”
After Bedel Tescareño’s
Tlaloc

"A Hundred Hands" After Russell
Stephanchick's Ceremonial Totem #3

HEIGHTS ARTS UPCOMING EVENTS

[Close Encounters: Concert 3](#)

April 30th, 3pm

Our Close Encounters concerts have received a glowing review on ClevelandClassical.com. Experience the world-class performance of Cleveland Orchestra musicians at an exclusive up-close concert in an intimate setting.

Tickets \$60 | \$51 Heights Arts members

[Poet Laureates - Past and Present](#)

May 4th, 7pm

Join us for a celebratory event honoring our poet laureates past and present and to thank Ray McNiece for his unforgettable contributions to the Cleveland Heights community as Cleveland Heights Poet Laureate on May 4th at the B Side Liquor Lounge.

This evening will feature readings by Ray McNiece, former CH poet laureates Gail Bellamy, Meredith Holmes, and Christine Howey, and the incoming Heights' Poet Laureate Siaara Freeman.

POETS

Elijah Perseus Blumov

Elijah Perseus Blumov is a poet and playwright with an MFA in Poetry from the Vermont College of Fine Arts. He is the creator and host of the poetry analysis podcast Versecraft, produced in partnership with the Ohio Poetry Association.

Siaara Freeman

Siaara Freeman is from Cleveland Ohio, where she is the current Lake Erie Siren . She is a 2023 Room in the House fellow with Karmau Theater, a 2022 Catapult fellow with Cleveland Public Theater. In 2021 Siaara filmed a commercial for the Cleveland Museum of Art and participated with #TeamYellowBrickRoad for the Black Joy Experience. She is a 2021 Premier Playwright fellow recipient with Cleveland Public theater. Her work appears in The Journal, Josephine Quarterly, Cleveland Magazine and elsewhere. She has had multiple poems go viral and has toured both nationally and internationally. Siaara is the Curriculum Development Manager at the Center of Arts Inspired Learning, and the artistic director for Artworks. She is the current poet laureate of Cleveland Heights and University Heights. When she is not working she is likely by a lake, thinking of Toni Morrison and talking to ghosts. Her first full length manuscript *Urbanshee* is available with Button Poetry.

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

Rachel Wiley

Rachel Wiley is a queer, biracial poet and performer living in Cleveland, Ohio. In addition to performing at slam venues, colleges, and festivals nationwide she is also a teaching artist. Rachel is the author of three full length poetry collections published by Button Poetry: Nothing is Okay (2018), Fat Girl Finishing School (re-released 2020), and Revenge Body(2022)-which was recently named the 2023 winner of the American Library Associations Stonewall Barbara Gittings Literature Award for Poetry.

VOLUNTEER FOR A HEIGHTS ARTS COMMUNITY TEAM

Heights Arts has a long history of inviting the community to share their passion and expertise to help the Organization develop and present its public programming. Three ongoing Volunteer Community Teams are charged with facilitating the strategies and action plans for Heights Arts core programming in the literary, musical, and visual arts disciplines. The purpose of Heights Arts' community teams is to expand community engagement in developing and presenting the programs of the organization and to tap the significant expertise that resides in our community. We invite poets, musicians, artists, and other members of the community to work with us to select and showcase the region's visual artists, poets, and musicians in our literary, musical, and exhibition programming.

To read more about our community teams and submit an application, visit us [HERE](#)

BECOME A HEIGHTS ARTS MEMBER

Now more than ever we appreciate your consideration to give to Heights Arts by becoming a member. As a member of Heights Arts, you receive discounts, special invitations, members-only events plus perks from our community partners. Your membership is tax-deductible and you have the opportunity to brag that you are helping to support local artists, musicians, creative writers, and public art in the community. You'll have your finger on the pulse of all things Heights Arts. What are you waiting for?

Join us today! Membership information can be found on our website [HERE](#)

FINAL CONCERTS OF CLOSE ENCOUNTERS SEASON 16

Our celebrated Close Encounters chamber music series, held in a distinctive array of locations, provides a sense of prestige and exclusive ambiance. The first concerts were hosted by historic residences like Herrick Mews in Cleveland Heights and the Dunham Tavern Museum. These Sunday afternoon concerts present classical music performed by arguably the world's most renowned local musicians—members of the Cleveland Orchestra and other elite performers. Time is running out to enjoy these one-of-a-kind programs designed by professional musicians!

Join our mailing list for the latest updates about Close Encounters and other programs. **Sign up by email on the guest list at our door or [scroll to the bottom of our home page.](#)**

IF YOU'RE LOOKING TO

expand your palette.

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in part with public funding from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture.

