

Emily Lu Gao (“Emdash”)

(858) 204-5493 • emdashwrites@gmail.com • any/all pronouns

Los Angeles, CA, USA • emdashesays.com

EDUCATION

Rutgers University-Newark, NJ | MFA in Creative Writing (Poetry), '23
Advisor: Brenda Shaughnessy

Pitzer College, Claremont, CA | B.A in Asian American Studies, Minor in Sociology, '21
Thesis: “Ichigo ichiye”: Tuesday Night Cafe (TNC) and The Asian American Importance of Healing in Community via Participatory Performance & Collective Catharsis • Advisors: Professors Sharon Goto, Joyce Lu and Martha Gonzalez

POETRY PUBLICATIONS

For prose see <https://linktr.ee/emilylugao>

- Two Cardinals Literary, “Chinese Caricature”
- WAYE Magazine, “The First Time I Witness Lowtide in Ptown”
- Alocasia Magazine, [“Corpse Flower POV”](#)
- Inkwell Magazine, “Capsized Pills”
- *Poetry Northwest*, [“Ode to Nicki and Linda”](#)
- *Honey Literary*, [“Pining through pixels”](#)
- Taco Bell Quarterly - “Ponyo Poem”
- ANMLY - [“in this hydrocortisone house”](#)
- Tinderbox Poetry Journal - “Echolocation for The Self”
- Alocasia - [“Honeysuckles at Ocean Air Elementary School”](#)
- *Honey Literary*, [“Electric-Fire Type Haibun”](#)
- *Kweli Literary Magazine*, [“Letter B”](#)
- *Underblong*, [“Penelope the Platypus”](#)
- *The Bellingham Review*, [“poem born from leaving iPhone dictation on while calling a friend”](#)
- Free The Verse, [“Dementia Dispatch”](#)
- [Sine Theta](#), “being a successful poet is like being a successful mushroom,”
- *Poetry.online*, [relentless & 热闹](#)
- *Kissing Dynamite*, [“sorry, we weren't that close”](#)
- *Queer Rain*, “Expats Tonsillectomy”
- *Curious Publishing*, “Hollywood”
- Agave Review, [“alphabet soup”](#)

AWARDS & WORKSHOPS

- LAMBDA Fellow 2025 (Poetry)
- Kenyon Review Writers Workshop 2025 (Fiction)
- June 2024: Bread Loaf EcoPoets Writers’ Conference Scholarship, Full-Scholarship
- May 2024: Sundress Publications Spring Residency, LGBTQIA+ Scholarship
- Best of Net 2023 Nominee for Microfiction and for Poetry
- June 2023: Jersey City Arts Council Individual Arts Fellowship, \$5000
- May 2023: Bread Loaf EcoPoets Writers’ Conference Scholarship, Half-Scholarship
- July 2022 and July 2021: Poets & Scholars @ Rutgers Institute for the Study of Global Racial Justice
- August 2021: Trustee Fellow, Rutgers-Newark University
- June 2020: Northwoods Minnesota Writers Conference (MNWC), Full-Scholarship

LITERARY ARTS EXPERIENCE

University of Rutgers-Newark | Adjunct English Professor

AUGUST 2021 - AUGUST 2023

- Taught classes of 25 students virtually and in-person creative writing through a syllabus divided into 3 sections (Fiction, Nonfiction and Poetry), centering marginalized authors like Fatimah Ashghar, bell hooks, James Baldwin, Ross Gay, Cathy Park Hong, Thi Bui, Ocean Vuong, Jamaica Kincaid, Hasan Minhaj, etc.
- Led discussion-based classes with themes like “Intersectional Mental Health”, “Queer Joy” and more

Word Bookstore Monthly Open Mic | Emcee, Event Producer, Bookseller

AUGUST 2022 - SEPT 2024

- Curates and advertises 2-3 featured artists of various mediums ranging from poetry and musicians to singers and dancers who are compensated \$80 in cash and a \$25 gift card to the store
- Emcees the evening, timekeeps, and sets up the physical space
- Sold and purchased books by QTBIPOC authors specifically for poetry, adult fiction, and wellness

Nightboat Books, Brooklyn, NY | Spring Intern

January 2023 - June 2023

- Copyedited manuscripts, publicity letters, interviews, and emails for award-winning authors from underrepresented backgrounds like Brandon Shimoda, Aurora Mattia, Jasmine Gibson, Wo Chan, Assotto Saint, Emily Lee Luan, Hiro Ito, Chia-Lun Chang, and more
- Pitched and created fee-waiver for Black & Indigenous writers for the 2023 Prose Contest
- Conducted interviews and helped edit for the Nightboat website blog and email e-blasts

Palette Poetry | Poetry Reader

JANUARY 2021 - MAY 2022

- Read, comment, and vote on rolling submissions throughout the year.
- Manage high volume contest submissions and adhere to reading deadlines.
- Co-edit poems and manage deliverables for online publication.

Teaching Assistant & Bookseller | Northwoods Minnesota Writers Conference

JUNE 2022 & JUNE 2023

- June 2023: Teaching Assistant for Aimee Nezhukumatahil
- Both years: Sold, managed and tracked books at every event throughout the week
- June 2022: Assisted the “Sean Hill & Co.” hybrid workshop, zooming in instructors like Kaveh Akbar, Keetje Kuipers, Elizabeth Bradfield and Ross Gay

Research Assistant, Poets & Scholars Summer Writing Retreat (PSSW) | (Online)

Institute for the Study of Global Racial Justice at Rutgers-Camden, JULY 2021 & JULY 2022

- Helped facilitate three 16-person writing workshops taught by award-winning authors like Naomi Jackson, Gregory Pardlo, Samiya Bashir and Aireya D. Matthews
- Led and facilitated 5 different “Q&A with The Author” across multiple time zones

New Jersey Performing Arts Center | City Verses Poetry Teacher

MAY 2022- AUGUST 2022

- Taught high school students of color creative writing through creating an intersectional curriculum highlighting writers of color like Danez Smith, Fatimah Ashgar, Franny Choi, Yesika Salgado, etc.
- Collaborated with jazz teachers to match original student poems to original compositions of music
- Led final student performance to ensure students felt confident and proud about their original work (

PERFORMANCE POETRY EXPERIENCE

- Disgustingly Femme Showcase, November 2025
- Tuesday Night Café Featured Performer, September 2025
- Writer & Performer, Vagina Monologues [Spoken Word] @ Occidental College (2015, 2016)
- Building Bold 2017 Poetry Showcase @ InspiredWord NYC
- 2018 IWPS (Individual World Poetry Slam), Sacrificial Poet & Timekeeper

Places Invited to Perform, 2019-2023:

- La Palabra Gallery Poetry Showcase Feature, San Diego, CA
- MOSAICS Art Showcase: Policing @ Malcolm X Library in San Diego, CA
- Curious Publishing House: Fall Poetry Party, Pomona, CA
- Winter 2019 San Diego Art Institute Friday Poetry Night
- SNAPS: Bi-Monthly 5C Open Mic & Workshop, Host/Facilitator/Performer @ Scripps College
- Slam the Silence: Poetry Showcase for Mental Health, San Diego, CA
- Costa Mesa Community College Featured Performer, Orange County, CA
- The Lansing Refugee Development Center (RDC) x The Poetry Room: Poetry Showcase (Zoom)

- 2020 Sunday Jump Open Mic Feature, Los Angeles, CA (Zoom)
- Workshop on Originality w/ New Delhi Poetry Slam (via Zoom, Delhi, India)
- Jersey City Reads & ArtCo. Festival (September 2023)
- NYPL Hudson Park Branch, New York City, NY (April 2023)
- Unnamable Bookstore Reading Series #8 in Brooklyn NY (July 2023)

SKILLS

Editing: Copywriting, copyediting, proofreading, tutoring

Software: Submittable, Slack, Microsoft Office Suite, Adobe InDesign, Photoshop.

Language: Native proficiency in English and Mandarin