

MELISSA DICKSON JACKSON

EDUCATION

Converse College, Spartanburg, South Carolina, 2010-2012.
MFA in Creative Writing, Poetry

School of Visual Arts, New York, New York, 1993-1995.
MFA in Studio Arts, Painting.

Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama, 1986-1992.
BFA in Studio Arts. Minors in Poetry and the Performance of Literature.

TEACHING WORKSHOPS, LECTURES, READINGS

"What Really Happened Was." Chattahoochee Valley Writer's Conference featured workshop: A workshop examining the backstories of published poems and exploring how poets edit and alter reality to create meaning. Contracted for September 2014.

AJC Decatur Book Festival. Featured Local Poet, August 2014.

"Battlelines, The Poetry of War." Georgia Poetry Society Featured Workshop Co-leader with Carey Scott Wilkerson: A workshop presentation exploring contemporary and classic poems related to war and conflict. The National Infantry Museum, Columbus GA. April 26, 2014

"Ten Rounds No Holds Barred Poetry: Four Poets, Ten Subject" presented by the Georgia Poetry Society at The Columbus Public Library. April 24, 2014

"New Poems from the City of Homes" presented by the Newnan Historical Society at the Historic Newnan Depot. April 3, 2014

Third Thursday Poetry Series featured Poet hosted by Auburn University Creative Writing Faculty, November 21, 2013

AJC Decatur Book Festival. Featured Local Poet, August 2013.

Converse College Graduate Seminar Craft Lecture: Finding Medusa, an exploration of ancient and contemporary texts to revisit the myth and ongoing evolution of Medusa. Spring 2012.

Auburn Writers' Conference. Featured Poet and Workshop Leader. The Persona Poem, contemporary examples and guided writing exercises. Fall 2011.

Versed in Poetry: Organized and Curated a series of readings and lectures featuring current US Poet Laureate Natasha Trethewey and Georgia and Alabama poets at The Centre for Performing and Visual Arts in Newnan, Georgia. Each reading included a poetry workshop with students of the Coweta County School System. Spring 2011.

Adventures in Art: Poetry Workshop Leader at The Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center. A week-long field excursion for all 4th and 5th grade students in Auburn Alabama. Explored persona poems from Lewis Carroll's "Jabberwocky" to James Hall's "Maybe Dats Your Pwoblem Too." Led writing exercises and performances among the students. Spring 2011.

University of South Alabama: Featured Poet and Workshop Leader with Creative Writing Students. Fall 2011.

Alabama Book Festival: Featured Poet and Reader. April 16, 2011.

Middle Georgia Technical College Poetry Celebration: One of Four Featured Poets and Readers. Spring 2011.

Pensters Writers' Group: Featured Lecturer and Poet, 2012. "Who is I, The Persona Poem in Contemporary Poetics." Fall 2011.

Georgia Poetry Society: Featured Poet at the Columbus River Center. Spring 2012.

Little Professor Bookstore: Birmingham, Alabama. March 2013. Release event for *Chinaberries and Crows* from Solomon and George Publishers.

The Gnu's Room: Auburn, Alabama. Release Event for *Cameo*. April 2011.

Release Event for *Chinaberries and Crows*. October 2012.

Release Event for *Sweet Aegis*, June 2013

PUBLICATIONS

Books and Chapbooks

On the Spectrum: Poems from Parents. Co-editor with Nicole Matos. Contracted for 2015 with New Plains Press.

Negative Capability Georgia Anthology, a collection of poems by Georgia Poets or about the state of Georgia. Associate Editor. (contracted for publication in Spring of 2015)

The Reach of Song 2014, an anthology of poems from members of The Georgia Poetry Society. (2014)

Sweet Aegis, Medusa Poems. Negative Capability Press (2013).

Cameo. New Plains Press (2011).

Table Five, a collaborative prose poem novella with Carey Scott Wilkerson, John Summerfield and Sue Brannan Walker. Dead Academic Press/Halawaukee School for Exegetical Arts (2012).

Chinaberries and Crows, an anthology of poems. Solomon and George Publishers (2012).

Gnu Writers' Chapbook. presented by The Gnu's Room, Auburn, Alabama (March 2012).

Feature Articles

“Mercurial Mayhayley.” *Newman/Coveta Magazine*. (September 2014)

“A Poem in Flight: Memory and Truth.” *North American Review Blog*. Online.

“What Mother’s Kitchen Is and Isn’t.” *Gravy*, from the Southern Foodways Alliance at the University of Mississippi. (in-press for Summer 2014)

“A Ghost in the Machine: The Art Photography of Billy Newman.” *Newman/Coveta Magazine*. (in press for June/July 2014)

“The Age of Consignment: Newnan’s Downtown Part of National Trend.” *Newman/Coveta Magazine*. (March/April 2014)

“Growing Gillyweed.” *Newnan/Coveta Magazine*. (January/February 2014)

Poems in Periodicals

“Turdus Migratorious.” *Bitter Southerner*, Atlanta GA. Online. (May 2014)

“Apples and Edam” and “Ode to the Avocado.” *Graze Magazine*, Chicago IL. Issue 5, (Spring 2014). print.

“My Mother Tells Me about Granny Alice and Poor Essie.” *Eyedrum Periodically*, Atlanta Ga. (March 2014) print.

“Mis En Place.” *Gravy*, from the Southern Foodways Alliance at The University of Mississippi. print. (December 2013).

“My Son Dancing,” and “Diorama.” *The Cumberland River Review* (October 2013, and January 2014): online (from Trivecca Nazzarene University).

“Buckeye,” and “The Humans.” *Shenandoah* (Volume 62, Number 2): Washington and Lee University, VA. online.

“The Phorcydes Recall Their Father,” “The Graeae Deny Nothing,” and “To to Isis, the Moratorium.” *Southern Humanities Review* (Fall 2012): 363-366. (from Auburn University).

“I Flew.” *North American Review* (Summer 2011): 20. (from The University of Northern Iowa)

“The Whole Vault of Heaven,” “Dionysus on the Death of Ariadne,” “Medusa Reads Hesiod’s Theogony at the Bullsboro Golden Corral.” *Fickle Muses*, May 6, 2013: online.

“Ash Wednesday.” *Literary Mama* (September 2012): online.

“How to Raise a Girl Poet.” *Birmingham Arts Journal* (Volume 7, Number 1): 46. print and online.

“If You Forget Me.” *Southern Women’s Review* (Volume 2, Issue 2): 82. print and online.

“You Asked What the Birds Mean.” *Southern Women’s Review* (Volume 1, Issue 1): 84. print and online.

“My First Husband.” *Breadcrumb Scabs* (September, 2010): 31. print and online.

“I Wandered Like I Wandered Lonely,” “Coney Island, New York” (as “It Was the Baby”). *Driftwood Review* (Issue 6, 2010). online.

“Niobe, Medusa, and Cassiopeia Meet Weekly,” “Zeus in the Rose Garden,” “Andromeda and the Wedding,” “Hermes Psychopompous,” and “Medusa’s Dilemma.” *The Dead Mule School of Southern Literature* (April 2012). online.

“Yellow Jackets.” *Glass* (Volume Three, Issue One, June 2010). online.

“Medusa Writes Her Epitaph,” and “Perseus Regales the Throng with a Blustery Tale.” *The Ides of March Poetry Journal* (July 2012). online.

“Medusa Argues Her Virtues,” and “The Medusa Effect.” *Melusine* (2011). online.

“Robin Lake” (as “The Fish”). *Sense Magazine* (2011): 52.

“Mirror,” “On the Passing of Gourmet” (as “Bitter Sonnet”) and “On Spilling the Salt.” *Shotglass Journal* (Issue 2). online.

“As Wishes are to Fulfillment, A Series on the Caves.” *Southern Humanities Review* (Spring 1990).

“Webster.” *Caesura* (Fall 1989).

CRITICAL RECEPTION AND OTHER COVERAGE

Newman Times Herald, “Dickson, Wilkerson Read Work for Historical Society.” May 4, 2014. print and online.

Newman Times Herald, “Readers Challenged to Revisit Medusa.” July 28, 2013. print and online.

Prarie Schooner: Poetry News in Review. June 25, 2013. online.

Ides of March. *Sweet Aegis* Reviewed. August 16, 2013. online.

Mobile Press Register. *Cameo*: Poet traces Civil War legacy in small, sharp images. October 02, 2011. print and online.

Alabama Writers’s Forum First Draft. *Cameo*, reviewed by P.T. Paul. 2011. online.

Our Lady of the Spiral Notebook. *Cameo*: *Art, History, War, Beauty* by Kory Wells. 2011. online.

Alabama Writers’s Forum First Draft. *Table Five*, reviewed by Aaron Sanderson, 2011. online.

Tuscaloosa News. *Chinaberries and Crows, Collection of Auburn Stories is Worthwhile* by Don Noble. 2013.

BOOK REVIEWS

Scything Grace, by Sean Dougherty, *Work In Progress*. (December 4, 2013). online.
Medusa: In the Mirror of Time, by David Leeming, *Southern Humanities Review*. (in press)
The Gold Thread by Sarah Kennedy. *Southern Humanities Review*. (Fall, 2013)
To Climb a Tree by Carey Link, Alabama Writers' Forum First Draft Magazine. online.
Possible Crocodiles by Barry Marks, Alabama Writers' Forum First Draft Magazine. online.
To Stitch a Summer Sky by Sue Scalf, Alabama Writers' Forum First Draft Magazine. online.
How God Ends Us by Delana Dameron, Alabama Writers' Forum First Draft Magazine. online.
Equivocal Blessings by Mary Carol Moran, Alabama Writers' Forum First Draft Magazine. online.

AWARDS AND HONORS

Nominated for Pushcart Award by Shenandoah and Cumberland River Review, 2014.
 Nominated for Pushcart Award by New Plains Press, 2011.
 Nominated for Pushcart Award by Dead Academics Press, 2012.
 The Academy of American Poets' Prize for Poetry (Auburn University) 1989.
 American Poetry Association National Poetry Contest, 7th Place. 1989.
 Auburn Arts Association Fellowship, 1990.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

Association of Writers and Writing Programs, Member
 American Academy of Poets, Member
 Alabama Poetry Society, Member
 Georgia Poetry Society, Member

RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Newspapers in Education Coordinator and Editor of "The Cub Reporter" for *The Opelika-Auburn News*, 2008-2011. Led poetry workshops with students in Lee County, Alabama introducing teenagers to contemporary poetry and encouraging them to practice writing on their own. Published selected submissions from the workshop students. Editor of *Arts Alive* for the Opelika-Auburn News, a tab special promoting local writers, artists, and musicians.

SERVICE

Editorial Board, Solomon and George Publishers, a non-profit division of The Gnu's Room fostering and encouraging the visual, performing, literary, and musical arts. 2011-2013.

Poetry Out Loud Judge, 7th Annual Alabama State Finals, 2012.

Contributed Cover and Interior Design for Poetry Collections: *Fault Lines* by Russell Streur, *Stony Lonesome* by Kelly Jolley, *Gravity* by Crystal Woods Jenkins, *Appetite* by Johnny Summerfield, *Heaven was the Moon* by Kory Wells, *Threading Stone* and *Ars Minotaurica* by Scott Wilkerson, and *Tragedy in My Neighborhood* by Ken Cormier.