





SPRING 2024



Furious Flower Poetry Center is the nation's first academic center dedicated to Black poetry. Established at James Madison University, the center serves creative writers, literary and cultural scholars, and poetry lovers across the world. Furious Flower originated with the acclaimed Furious Flower Poetry Conference in 1994—the first major conference on African American poets since the 1970s. The event was envisioned and organized by distinguished scholar and professor Dr. Joanne Gabbin to honor Gwendolyn Brooks and her literary legacy. More than 30 presenters discussed poetry craft, the history of Black poets, and shared their work with hundreds of writers, scholars, and poetry

enthusiasts. The conference garnered national attention and, after, a second conference in 2004, Furious Flower was chartered as an academic center at JMU.

Furious Flower is committed to ensuring the visibility, inclusion, and critical consideration of Black diasporic poets in American letters, as well as in educational curricula. The center's programming seeks to cultivate an appreciation for poetry among students of all levels—from elementary to graduate school and beyond—and for lifelong learners. In addition, Furious Flower works to support and promote Black poets at all stages of their careers and to preserve the history of Black poets for future generations.



First Friday Receptions

February 2 (Exhibit Debut) March 1 April 5 (Exhibit Debut) May 3

furious flower Broadside Gallery

Furious Flower Broadside Gallery showcases broadsides by Black poets. Broadsides are prints of poems often intended to be plastered onto walls or framed. They can be digitally or hand-printed, and may also feature graphic or fine art in conversation with the poem. Oftentimes, broadsides are printed in limited editions, which are numbered and signed by the poet and/or artist. The gallery rotates curated exhibits every two months, debuting each exhibit at a First Friday reception. It is free and open to the public.

SEAN HILL POETRY READING



furious flower Reading Series

February 22 | 5 P.M.

Highlands Room (Festival) Livestreamed & Recorded

Sean Hill is the author of *Dangerous Goods*, awarded the Minnesota Book Award in Poetry, and *Blood Ties & Brown Liquor*, named one of the Ten Books All Georgians Should Read in 2015 by the Georgia Center for the Book. His poems and essays have appeared in *Callaloo*, *Harvard Review*, *New England Review*, *Orion*, *Oxford American*, *Poetry*, *Terrain.org*, *Tin House*, and numerous other journals, and in almost two dozen anthologies including *Black Nature* and *Villanelles*. He has served as the director of the Minnesota Northwoods Writers Conference at Bemidji State University since 2012. Hill is a consulting editor at Broadsided Press, a monthly broadside publisher. He has taught at several universities, including at the University of Alaska – Fairbanks and Georgia Southern University as an Assistant Professor.

A READING AND CONVERSATION WITH

SHANE MCCRAE



March 21 | 7 p.m.

Wilson Hall Auditorium Livestreamed & Recorded



Shane McCrae's most recent books of poetry are *Cain Named the Animal*, a finalist for the Forward Prize and longlisted for the PEN/Voelcker Award, and *The Many Hundreds of the Scent*. His memoir, *Pulling the Chariot of the Sun*, was published in 2023. That same year, he was awarded the Arthur Rense Poetry Prize from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. His other awards include a Lannan Literary Award and a Whiting Writer's Award. He has received fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation and the New York Foundation for the Arts. He lives in New York City and teaches at Columbia University.

MAHOGANY BROWNE

POETRY READING





furious flower Reading Series

April 4 | 5:30 P.M.

Grafton/Stovall
Livestreamed & Recorded

Mahogany L. Browne is the Executive Director of JustMedia, a media literacy initiative designed to support the groundwork of criminal justice leaders and community members. This position is informed by her career as a writer, organizer, & educator. Browne has received fellowships from Agnes Gund, Air Serenbe, Cave Canem, Poets House, Mellon Research & Rauschenberg. She is the author of recent works: Chlorine Sky, Woke: A Young Poets Call to Justice, Woke Baby, & Black Girl Magic. Browne is the founder of the diverse lit initiative, Woke Baby Book Fair; and is excited about her latest poetry collection. I Remember Death By Its Proximity to What I Love is a book-length poem responding to the impact of mass incarceration on women and children). She is based in Brooklyn and is the first-ever Poet-in-Residence at the Lincoln Center.

THE FOURTH DECADE-DEFINING CONFERENCE

FURIOUS FLOWER

HONORING KWAME DAWES & ELIZABETH ALEXANDER

COMING THIS FALL **SEPTEMBER 18-21, 2024**

Since our groundbreaking 1994 gathering, the Furious Flower Poetry Center at James Madison University has convened a series of decade-defining conferences that explore and generate significant developments within Black poetic activity and scholarship. At our fourth decennial conference in 2024, "The Worlds of Black Poetry," we are inviting transformative projects and conversations that center the worldwide, world-making energy of Black poetic expression, analyzing and celebrating its visionary abundance and planetary reach. Save the date for Furious Flower IV: Celebrating the Worlds of Black Poetry and join us at James Madison University September 2024.

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