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.
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.

jmu.edu/furiousflower
Join us for the inaugural Furious Flower poetry reading featuring Gbenga Adesina, Furious Flower Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellow in Black Global and Diasporic Poetry. Adesina is a Nigerian poet, essayist, and scholar who received his MFA from New York University, where he was a Goldwater Fellow and was mentored by Yusef Komunyakaa. His chapbook, Painter of Water, was published as part of the New-Generation African Poets series from Akashic Books, and his poem "Across the Sea: A Sequence" won the 2020 Narrative Prize. His work has been published or is forthcoming in Harvard Review, Prairie Schooner, the Poetry Review, Brittle Paper, the Yale Review, the New York Times and elsewhere.

jmu.edu/furiousflower
Join us for an open mic (6:30 p.m.) and poetry reading (7:30 p.m.), featuring Safia Elhillo. Elhillo is the author of *The January Children* (University of Nebraska Press), which received the Sillerman First Book Prize for African Poets and an Arab American Book Award, *Girls that Never Die* (One World/Random House), and the novel in verse *Home is Not a Country* (Make Me A World/Random House), which was longlisted for the National Book Award and received a Coretta Scott King Book Award Author Honor. With Fatimah Asghar, she is co-editor of the anthology *Halal If You Hear Me* (Haymarket Books).

[link to event page] jmu.edu/furiousflower
**Performances**

December 1, 8 p.m.
December 2, 8 p.m.
December 3, 2 p.m.

_Dancescapes_ 2023, directed by Associate Professor Matt Pardo, will feature world premieres by guest artists from across the country including Norbert De La Cruz and Brandi Coleman. The concert will also feature the work _Concerto_ by the world-renowned artist, Lucinda Childs. Additionally, Virginia Repertory Dance Company will continue its focus on collaboration, partnering with Furious Flower Poetry Center to create shared original work. This exciting evening will explore contemporary dance at its finest and will feature members of the Virginia Repertory Dance Company.

[Link to website](jmu.edu/furiousflower)
Join the Furious Flower Mailing List

@furiousflower
@furiousflowerpc

500 Cardinal Drive, MSC 3802
Harrisonburg, VA 22807
(540)-568-8883  |  jmu.edu/furiousflower