

EMERGE—SURFACE—BE: 2016-17

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM FOR EMERGING POETS

APPLICATION DEADLINE — Sunday, September 11, 2016 at 11:59PM
Selected 2016-17 Fellows will be notified by mid-October 2016

PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

Emerge—Surface—Be is a natural extension of The Poetry Project's program offerings. It formalizes the distinct yet unspoken pedagogical aspect of The Poetry Project's programs while providing a unique opportunity to support, develop and present emerging NYC-based poets of promise.

Poet mentors **r. erica doyle**, **Marcella Durand**, and **John Godfrey** will each select an emerging poet to work with. Over the course of nine months, Fellows will be given the opportunity to work one-on-one with their mentor to develop their craft. Ideal Fellows will have a project they are working on or want to embark upon, and feel that they would benefit from guidance and support. Each Fellow will receive an award of \$2,500.

In addition to working with their mentors, Fellows will have access to all Poetry Project events (free workshops, free readings, free publications) and be included in the Annual New Year's Day Marathon Reading. Fellows will also read within The Poetry Project's Monday or Friday Night Reading Series as a culminating event with introductions made by their mentors. Fellows will be invited to attend gatherings with the Project staff, as well as the other Fellows and Mentors.

Applicants that have achieved some measure of local, regional, or national professional recognition will be judged favorably, as will applicants who have been published or had work presented in recognized publications and venues. However, the most important criterion is that an applicant's work shows potential. Therefore, demonstration of a high level of skill and unique stylistic vision will be considered in the decision making process.

Our definition of "emerging" is a writer who has local and perhaps regional recognition and may have national exposure, though not national recognition. **As a top limit, an emerging writer has published no more than one full-length perfect bound book and no more than three chapbooks (not including self-published work in chapbook form).**

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- New York City resident at the time of application and have lived in NYC at least one year prior to the application deadline;
- Eighteen years of age and older;
- *Individuals enrolled in undergraduate and graduate degree-granting writing programs are not eligible.* However, individuals who enroll in degree-granting writing programs or take classes after the time of application submission are eligible for fellowships providing they maintain an active, professional practice of creating and presenting work to the public.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

- Project description, including project goals and long-term artistic goals;
- Work Sample:
 - o Seven to ten (7-10) page sample of project manuscript **OR**
 - o Seven to ten (7-10) pages of prior work;
- Creative resume and bio;
- Optional video clip or mp3 of applicant reading

The Poetry Project embraces diversity in the broadest sense of the word. This principle is reflected in the choice of mentor poets and will be reflected in the selection of Fellows.

Please email esbfellowship@poetryproject.org with questions.

Emerge – Surface – Be is supported with funds from the Jerome Foundation.

MENTOR BIOS:

r. **erica doyle** has taught community and university-based workshops to writers of all ages for over 20 years. Her debut collection, *proxy* (Belladonna* Books, 2013), won the 2014 Norma Farber First Book Award from the Poetry Society of America and was a Finalist for the Lambda Literary Award in Lesbian Poetry. Her work has appeared in *Best American Poetry*, *Our Caribbean: A Gathering of Gay and Lesbian Writers from the Antilles*, *Ploughshares*, and elsewhere. A Cave Canem fellow, she has received grants and awards from the Hurston/ Wright Foundation, the Astraea Lesbian Writers Fund and the New York Foundation for the Arts.

Marcella Durand's books include *Deep Eco Pré*, a collaboration with Tina Darragh (Little Red Leaves); *AREA* (Belladonna Books); and *Traffic & Weather*, a site-specific book-length poem written during a residency at the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council in downtown Manhattan (Futurepoem Books). She was a 2009 Fellow in Poetry from the New York Foundation for the Arts, the 2010-2011 Fellow in Poetics and Poetic Practice for the Center for Programs in Contemporary Writing at the University of Pennsylvania; a 2011-2013 Fellow at the Black Earth Institute; and is currently a Civic Liberal Arts Fellow at the Eugene Lang College at the New School. Her poetry and essays on the intersections of poetry and ecology have appeared in *the (eco(lang))(uage (reader)*, *Ecopoetics*, *Chain*, *Conjunctions*, *NYFA Current*, *HOW(2)*, *Critiphoria*, and other journals. She lives in New York City, where she is currently translating Michèle Métail's book-length poem, *Les Horizons du sol (Earth's horizons)* and completing two collections of poems, *The World Is Composed of Continuous Objects with Various Shapes that Can Obscure One Another* and *Rays of the Shadow*.

John Godfrey has been writing poems since 1963. He made a commitment to writing in 1965 when he was turned on to the poems being written in the East Village at the time and to the new American poetry of the post WWII era. He believes in reading carefully and learning on one's own – in collegiality with contemporaries and with all of the historical record of poems. Perspectives accumulate and melt into self-direction. He wants to write poems he cannot not write. Poems and the writer's choices of ways to live coincide and inspire each other. Poems are in the world and come from the world. Since 1971 more than a dozen collections of his poems have appeared. Wave Books published his *The City Keeps: New and Selected Poems 1966-2014* in 2016. Poems from all of these collections are represented there. He first read at the Poetry Project in 1969, and many times since. He led workshops at the Project in 1974, 1982-83, and in 2013. He has been a fellow of the General Electric Foundation, the Foundation for Contemporary Art, and the Z Foundation.