

Rebecca Hart Olander

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EDUCATION

M.F.A. in Writing, Vermont College of Fine Arts, 2015; Thesis: “Haibun: A Literary Walk Through the Nature, History, Contemporary Usage, and Hybridization of a Poetic Form”

M.A.T. in English, Smith College, 1996

B.A. in Humanities, Hampshire College, 1993

Division III Thesis: “Rise with the Gift: Poems”

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Westfield State University

Composition II: Writing about Poetry as Political Response (spring 2017, 2018, 2019)

Composition I (fall 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2018)

Creative Writing (fall 2017)

Supervised students at Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity conference (fall 2017)

Supervised students in writing grant proposals in Grant Writing class (fall 2017)

Supervised student in resume-building experience for Career Prep for Writers class (spring 2017)

Composition II: Writing about Innocence and Incarceration (spring 2015, 2016, 2017)

Composition II: Writing about Current Issues (fall 2015, 2016; spring 2013, 2014, 2016)

Northampton Public Schools

Poetry Workshops (2006-2010, 2019)

Wordsmith Workshops

Creative Writing (2003-2004)

West Springfield High School

Creative Writing (1997-1999)

Journalism (1997-1999)

Sophomore Honors English (1997-1999)

Remedial English 9 and 10 (summer 1997, 1998)

Sophomore English (1996-1998)

Freshman English (1996-1997)

MA Migrant Education Program

English as a Second Language (summer 1996)

PUBLICATIONS

- 2019 Chapbook *Dressing the Wounds* (forthcoming from dancing girl press)
- 2019 Poem “Wrecked, Off Pavilion Beach” in *Crab Creek Review* (forthcoming)
- 2019 Poem “Inheritance” in *Mom Egg Review* (forthcoming)
- 2019 Poem “In Which I Am Anne of Green Gables Avoiding Doing the Dishes” in *Nightjar Review* (forthcoming)
- 2019 Poem “Make Believe” in *Wanderlust: A Narrative Map* anthology (forthcoming)
- 2019 Poem “Visitation” in *Bracken* anthology (forthcoming)
- 2019 Poem “Late October Light” featured in anthology of winners of the Women’s National Book Association’s Writing Contest (forthcoming)
- 2019 Poem “Tahlequah” featured in anthology *For the Love of Orcas* (forthcoming)
- 2019 Poems “The Button Box,” “There’s No Place Like Home,” and “Outside Modern Myths: Waiting in the Car while the Teens Battle on Game Night” featured in anthology *WAVES: A Confluence of Women’s Voices* (forthcoming from A Room of Her Own Foundation)
- 2019 Poems “*Turritopsis dohrnii*,” “Grand Central Station,” and “Supermoon” in *Woven Tale Press* (forthcoming)
- 2019 Poem “Cartomancy” in *Lily Poetry Review*
- 2019 Short fiction piece “Fainting Couch” in *Linea*
- 2019 Collage/poem collaboration with Elizabeth Paul in *Les Femmes Folles*
- 2019 Featured artist for collage collaboration with Elizabeth Paul in *The Indianapolis Review*
- 2019 Collage/poem collaboration with Elizabeth Paul in *petrichor’s Issue IX: Renewal*
- 2018 Poem “The Whale” in *SWWIM Every Day*
- 2018 Poem “Humble Pie” featured in poetry craft book *The Practicing Poet: Writing Beyond the Basics* (Terrapin Books)
- 2018 Selections from *How the Letters Invent Us*, a collaborative manuscript, featured in *Duende*
- 2018 Poem “The Cancer Is Back” in *Silkworm*
- 2018 Selections from *How the Letters Invent Us*, a collaborative manuscript written with Elizabeth Paul, featured in *They Said: A Multi-Genre Anthology of Contemporary Collaborative Writing* (published by Black Lawrence Press)
- 2018 Poem “What the Digital Sign Flashed at Me as I Drove Downtown” in *Literary Mama*
- 2018 Poems “How, Drinking One Monday in Massachusetts, I Remembered What I Felt on the Carrer de Mallorca in Spain One Long-Ago Winter” and “Make Believe” (with accompanying photographs by author) in *Wanderlust Journal*
- 2018 Poems “Plein Air,” “On Learning about the Craft of Quilling from an Exhibit in the Field Memorial Library,” and “Where Lost Streets Go” featured in *Compass Roads: Poems about the Pioneer Valley* (published by Straw Dog Writers Guild)
- 2018 Poems “Soundtrack for Growing Up,” “Avian Envy,” and “A New Song” in *Hedge Apple* magazine “Mix Tape: The Music Issue”
- 2018 Poems “The Snail” and “Untethered” in the *Plath Poetry Project* February retrospective
- 2018 Poem “Pressed Flowers” in *Mom Egg Review* Vol. 16 – “Play & Work Issue”
- 2018 Poem “I Bet Beavers Never Want to Live a Different Life” in the *Plath Poetry Project* January retrospective
- 2018 Poem “‘The Finding of Erichthonius’: A Study in Stages” in *The Ilanot Review*
- 2018 Poems “The Conception of Immaculate” and “Perigee” in the *Plath Poetry Project* December retrospective
- 2017 Poem “Ball & Chain” in the *Plath Poetry Project* November retrospective
- 2017 Poem “Fawn” in *MER VOX* online quarterly folio, #MeToo edition

- 2017 Poem "Wish" in the *Plath Poetry Project* October Week Three retrospective
- 2017 Poem "Book of Changes" featured in *Anthem: A Tribute to Leonard Cohen*, a charity anthology from Nocturnicorn Books
- 2017 Poem "The Terrible Rooms of Mirrors" in the *Plath Poetry Project* October Week One retrospective
- 2017 Poem "Mockingbird Elegy" in *Silkworm*
- 2017 Poem "Sylvia's Present" in the *Plath Poetry Project* September retrospective
- 2017 Poem "Reading Tarot before our Eighteenth Anniversary" named "Poem of the Moment" at Mass Poetry (masspoetry.org)
- 2017 Poems "I Have Nothing to Confess" and "On Learning to Say No" in *Plath Poetry Project* July retrospective
- 2017 Poem "Dark-eyed Junco" in *Solstice Literary Magazine*
- 2017 Poem "Gloucester Music" in the *Plath Poetry Project* May retrospective
- 2017 Poem "Paradelle for the Robins" in Iowa Bird of Mouth (IBOM) Project
- 2017 Poems "The Bow" and "Trigger" in the *Plath Poetry Project* April retrospective
- 2017 Poem "Hurricane Necklace" in *Virga Magazine*
- 2017 Poem "Malum" in *Mom Egg Review*
- 2017 Poem "What I Remember About Heidi" in *Naugatuck River Review*
- 2017 Poem "Visitation" in *Bracken Magazine*
- 2017 Poem "Dressing the Wounds" in *Radar Poetry*
- 2016 Poems "Maid of Honor" and "Considering Delores" in *Queen of Cups*
- 2016 Guest column "Time to listen, avoid hypocrisy" in *Daily Hampshire Gazette*
- 2016 Poems "Oz" and "Biomimicry" in *The Gallery of Readers Anthology*
- 2016 Book review of *Dinner with Emerson* in *Solstice Literary Magazine*
- 2016 Poems "Mass on the Mammogram," "Poetry," and "Why I Became an English Teacher" in *The Dandelion Review*
- 2016 Book review of *Admit One: An American Scrapbook* in *Solstice Literary Magazine*
- 2016 Poem "Strange Fruit" on Joshua Michael Stewart's blog, as *Jazz Poetry #13*
- 2016 Poem "Seneca Deer" in *Yemassee Journal*
- 2016 Book review of *Waving Back* in *Valparaiso Poetry Review*
- 2015 Poem "Green Halloween" in *30 Poems in November!* anthology
- 2015 Book review of *The Land Has Its Say* in *Rain Taxi Review of Books*
- 2015 Poem "Strange Fruit" in *Brilliant Corners*
- 2015 Book review of *Seascape* in *Rain Taxi Review of Books*
- 2015 Book review of *I Carry My Mother* in *Solstice Literary Magazine*
- 2014 Poem "Driving Lessons" in *30 Poems in November!* anthology
- 2014 Poem "Alita Darcy" featured on "Poetry à la Carte" radio program
- 2014 Poem "In Memorium" in *Silkworm*
- 2014 Poem "Alita Darcy" in *Naugatuck River Review*
- 2014 Poem "Kimona" in *Naugatuck River Review*
- 2013 Poem "Alita Darcy" in *30 Poems in November!* anthology
- 2013 Poem "Reciprocity" in *Common Ground Review*
- 2012 Poem "Veterans Day on Authors Ridge" in *30 Poems in November!* anthology
- 2011 Poem "Before the Divorce" in *30 Poems in November!* anthology
- 2010 Poem "On Walking Past the Cemetery Gates" in *30 Poems in November!* anthology
- 2009 Poem "Modest Joy" featured on "The Bill Dwight Show" radio program

HONORS / AWARDS

- 2018 Ohio State University Press/*The Journal* Wheeler Prize for Poetry, semifinalist for poetry manuscript *Uncertain Acrobats*
- 2018 *Codbill Poetry Award*, quarterfinalist for poetry manuscript *Uncertain Acrobats*
- 2018 Finalist in the Joy Harjo Poetry Contest through *Cutthroat Journal* for poem “Goldilocks”
- 2018 Two Sylvias Chapbook Prize, finalist for poetry manuscript *Stores of Honey. Time Machines. Amber.*
- 2018 Hillary Gravendyk Prize, first runner up (national) for poetry manuscript *Uncertain Acrobats*
- 2018 Agha Shahid Ali Poetry Prize, semifinalist for poetry manuscript *Uncertain Acrobats*
- 2018 ILA Rita Dove Award in Poetry, finalist for poem “Unearthing and Burying My Old Friend with a Golden Shovel”
- 2018 Fish Poetry Prize, long-listed for poem “Echolocation”
- 2017 Nominated for a Pushcart Prize for poem “Malum,” published in *Mom Egg Review*
- 2017 Crab Orchard Series in Poetry First Book Award, semifinalist for manuscript *Uncertain Acrobats*
- 2017 The Word Works Washington Prize, semifinalist for manuscript *Uncertain Acrobats*
- 2016 Sundress Publications Open Reading Period, semifinalist for collaborative manuscript *How the Letters Invent Us*, written in conversation with Elizabeth Paul
- 2016 *Naugatuck River Review’s* Narrative Poetry Contest, semifinalist for poem “What I Remember About Heidi”
- 2016 Crab Orchard Series in Poetry First Book Award, semifinalist for manuscript *Uncertain Acrobats*
- 2016 Yemassee Poetry Prize, finalist for poem “Seneca Deer”
- 2015 Poem “Alita Darcy” chosen for Northampton Arts Council’s Biennial Poetry Reading
- 2015 Fish Poetry Prize, long-listed for poem “Book of Changes”
- 2014 Hedgerow Books, honorable mention for manuscript *Say the Marsh*
- 2014 *Naugatuck River Review* poetry contest, semi-finalist for poem “Kimona”
- 2013 Fish Poetry Prize, long-listed for poem “Without You, I’m an Out-of-Work Engineer”
- 2013 Connecticut Poetry Award, honorable mention for poem “Winslow’s Women of Cullercoats”
- 2013 Women’s National Book Association Poetry Award, first place for poem “Late October Light”
- 2009 Paradise Poetry Prize, honorable mention for poem “Modest Joy”

PRESENTATIONS

- 2019 Featured reader in Straw Dog Writers Guild Literary Rendezvous series, The Voo
- 2019 Featured reader in “Today’s Poets in Conversation with the Masters,” Sandisfield Arts Center
- 2019 Featured reader with Abigail Warren and S.G. Tyler at Greenfield Third Thursday Word
- 2019 Poetry reading, *Linea* launch party, Northampton Center for the Arts
- 2019 Featured reader, “Campus Authors Series,” Ely Library, Westfield State University
- 2019 Poetry reading, Attack Bear Press’s Poetry Vending Machine Project, Black Labyrinth Tattoo
- 2019 Poetry workshop presenter, Northampton High School
- 2019 Read poems on WRSI “The River” in support of Cancer Connection Campout
- 2019 Guest speaker in course on poetry and publication, Smith College Poetry Center
- 2018 Featured reader with Patty Crane and Maria Williams-Russell, White Square Books
- 2018 Featured reader with Amy Dryansky, Karen Skolfield, Sarah Sousa, and Yasotha Sriharan in “Taking a Stand: Poetry of Resistance” during the Great Falls Word Fest, The Shea Theater
- 2018 Poetry reading, *Silkworm 11: The Eleventh Hour* journal launch, Lilly Library
- 2018 Featured reader with Abigail Warren and S. G. Tyler, Lilly Library
- 2018 Featured reader, “Gathering Light” multi-genre show, APE Gallery

- 2018 Featured reader with Sarah Sousa and Janet MacFayden, White Square Books
- 2018 Poetry reading, *Mom Egg Review* issue 16 launch, Poets House, NYC
- 2018 Poetry reading, *Compass Roads* book launch, Montague Bookmill
- 2018 Featured reader, Voices of Poetry event, Eastham Public Library
- 2018 Workshop presenter, Massachusetts Poetry Festival:
“Collaborative Writing: Solidarity, Strategy & Spark”
- 2018 Panelist, Massachusetts Poetry Festival:
“Building an Online Writing Community: Lessons from the Poetry Cleanse”
- 2018 Poetry reading, *Compass Roads* book launch, White Square Books
- 2018 Poetry reading, Straw Dog Writers Guild
- 2017 Panelist, Write Angles Conference, Mt. Holyoke College: “Poetry, Publishing, and Persistence”
- 2017 Radio interview with Write Angles Conference panelists, “Poetry à la Carte” radio program
- 2017 Poetry reading, Smith alumni poets at 20th anniversary of Smith College Poetry Center
- 2017 Poetry reading, *Silkworm 10* journal launch, Lilly Library
- 2017 Poetry reading, “Celebrate Westfield,” Westfield State University
- 2017 Featured reader to kickoff Gallery of Readers annual series, Smith College
- 2017 Featured reader, Forbes Library
- 2017 Poetry reading, Amherst Arts Night Plus, Emily Dickinson Museum
- 2016 Poetry reading, *Gallery of Readers Anthology* book launch, Smith College
- 2016 Featured reader, “Campus Authors Series,” Ely Library, Westfield State University
- 2016 Workshop presenter, Perugia Press 20th Anniversary, Smith College Poetry Center:
“Reaching Beyond: How Ekphrastic Poetry Connects Us to the Larger World”
- 2015 Workshop presenter, University of Massachusetts Amherst,
Mass Poetry’s Student Day of Poetry: “Exploring Ekphrasis”
- 2015 Participating writer, “30 Poems in November!” literacy project
- 2015 Featured reader in faculty showcase, Ely Library, Westfield State University
- 2015 Featured reader, Forbes Library, Northampton Arts Council’s Biennial Poetry Reading
- 2015 Featured reader, Greenfield Annual Word Festival
- 2015 Poetry reading, Word Stage, Garlic and Arts Festival
- 2015 Presented lecture “Considering Shed Skins: The Self-Reflexive Address in Poetry”
- 2015 Featured reader, Vermont College of Fine Arts
- 2015 Featured reader, “Write Minds” poetry reading series
- 2015 Poetry reading, Luthier’s Co-op
- 2015 Poetry readings, Straw Dog Writers Guild
- 2015 Poetry reading, Vermont College of Fine Arts
- 2014 Workshop presenter, Massachusetts Poetry Festival:
“Reaching Beyond: How Ekphrastic Poetry Connects Us to the Larger World”
- 2014 Featured reader, “All Small Caps” poetry reading series
- 2014 Poetry reading, Smith College Poetry Center
- 2014 Poetry reading, Forbes Library
- 2014 Poetry readings, Vermont College of Fine Arts
- 2014 Poetry reading, Amherst Poetry Festival
- 2014 Poetry reading, Ely Library, Westfield State University
- 2014 Poetry reading, Greenfield Spoken Word
- 2014 Poetry readings, Luthier’s Co-op
- 2014 Participating writer, “30 Poems in November!” literacy project
- 2013 Featured reader, “Unbuttoned” poetry reading series
- 2013 Featured reader, Greenfield Annual Word Festival

- 2013 Poetry reading, Weinstein Auditorium, Smith College
- 2013 Poetry reading, Forbes Library
- 2013 Poetry reading, Vermont College of Fine Arts
- 2013 Poetry readings, Luthier's Co-op
- 2013 Poetry reading, Greenfield Spoken Word
- 2013 Poetry reading, Straw Dog Writers Guild
- 2013 Participating writer, "30 Poems in November!" literacy project
- 2012 Poetry reading, Weinstein Auditorium, Smith College
- 2012 Participating writer, "30 Poems in November!" literacy project
- 2011 Poetry reading, Stoddard Hall, Smith College
- 2011 Poetry reading, Florence Poetry Festival
- 2011 Participating writer, "30 Poems in November!" literacy project
- 2010 Featured reader, Florence Civic Center
- 2010 Featured reader, "Gallery of Readers" poetry reading series
- 2010 Poetry reading, Stoddard Hall, Smith College
- 2010 Participating writer, "30 Poems in November!" literacy project
- 2009 Poetry reading, Forbes Library
- 2009 Participating writer, "30 Poems in November!" literacy project
- 2008 Featured reader, Florence Civic Center
- 2007 Featured reader, Jones Library
- 2006 Featured reader, Neilson Library, Smith College
- 2005 Writing conference workshop presenter, Written Word XII:
"Going with the Flow: Giving Your Writing a Jumpstart"
- 2005 Featured reader, Florence Civic Center
- 2004 Keynote speaker and writing conference workshop presenter, Written Word XI:
"Going with the Flow: Giving Your Writing a Jumpstart"
- 2004 Featured reader, Neilson Library, Smith College
- 2003 Featured reader, Neilson Library, Smith College
- 2002 Writing conference workshop presenter, Written Word X:
"Dreams of the Animals: The Birds and Beasts of Poetry"
- 2002 Featured reader, The Red Barn, Hampshire College
- 2002 Participant, "Poem Windows" poetry and video installation
- 2001 Writing conference workshop presenter, Written Word IX:
"Fictionalized Autobiography: Your Life Meets the Ultra-Short Story"
- 2001 Participant, "World Changed: Expressions from 9/11" poetry and art exhibit
- 2000 Keynote speaker and writing conference workshop presenter, Written Word VIII:
"Found Writing: Unearthing Inspiration from Poetry, Children's Literature, and Art"
- 1999 Writing conference workshop presenter, Written Word VII:
"A Chip Off the Old Block: Strategies for Overcoming the Poet's Writer's Block"
- 1998 Writing conference workshop presenter, Written Word VI:
"Songs of Self: Autobiographical Poetry"
- 1997 Writing conference workshop presenter, Written Word V:
"Writing Yourself Home: An Autobiographical Journey"

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 2019 Sunken Garden Poetry Festival, Farmington, CT
- 2019 AWP Writing Conference, Portland, Oregon
- 2019 Composition workshop, Westfield State University:
“Facilitating Peer Review to Practice Genuine Revision”
- 2019 Composition workshop, Westfield State University:
“Negotiating Englishes in the Composition Classroom”
- 2018 Composition workshop, Westfield State University:
“Shifting Focus: Teaching Research as a Process in Comp II”
- 2018 Sunken Garden Poetry Festival, Farmington, CT
- 2018 Online writing course, “Form from Feeling and Feeling from Form” taught by Peter Campion,
Provincetown Fine Arts Work Center (*24PearlStreet.org*)
- 2018 Massachusetts Poetry Festival, Salem, MA
- 2018 Composition workshop, Westfield State University:
“Workshopping Our Assumptions about Abilities”
- 2018 Cross-cultural Symposium, Westfield State University
- 2018 AWP Writing Conference, Tampa, Florida
- 2017 Online writing course, “Staying True: Authenticity & Voice” taught by Ada Limón,
Provincetown Fine Arts Work Center (*24PearlStreet.org*)
- 2017 Writing workshop taught by Eileen Myles, Hillstead Museum
- 2017 Morning Garden Artists’ Retreat, Gloucester, MA
- 2017 Sunken Garden Poetry Festival, Farmington, CT
- 2017 Massachusetts Poetry Festival, Salem, MA
- 2017 Cross-cultural Symposium, Westfield State University
- 2017 AWP Writing Conference, Washington, DC
- 2017 Composition workshop, Westfield State University:
“Support Services & Composition Instruction”
- 2017 Composition workshop, Westfield State University: “Transformative Speaking: Supporting
Students’ Rights and Responsibilities In and Out of the Classroom”
- 2016 Writing workshop taught by Juan Felipe Herrera, Hillstead Museum
- 2016 Sunken Garden Poetry Festival, Farmington, CT
- 2016 Massachusetts Poetry Festival, Salem, MA
- 2016 Writing workshop taught by Diane Lockward, Salem, MA
- 2016 Composition workshop, Westfield State University:
“Beyond Linear and Print-Based Texts: Going Multi-Modal in Composition”
- 2016 Composition workshop, Westfield State University:
“Writing for Public Audiences in the Composition Classroom”
- 2015 Composition workshop, Westfield State University:
“After the Forum: (Re) Envisioning Comp I”
- 2015 English Education workshop, Westfield State University: “Race in the English Classroom”
- 2015 Writing workshop taught by Diane Lockward, Emily Dickinson Museum
- 2015 Writing workshop taught by Sarah Sousa, Jones Library, Amherst, MA
- 2015 Sunken Garden Poetry Festival, Farmington, CT
- 2015 Massachusetts Poetry Festival, Salem, MA
- 2015 Writing workshop taught by Holly Wren Spaulding, Salem, MA
- 2015 Composition workshop, Westfield State University:
“Writing Toward Inclusion in the Composition Classroom”

- 2015 Design Studio community engagement training, Westfield State University
- 2014 Sunken Garden Poetry Festival, Farmington, CT
- 2014 Massachusetts Poetry Festival, Salem, MA
- 2014 Composition workshop, Westfield State University:
“Writing in the Composition Classroom: Structuring Class Time to Privilege Writing”
- 2014 English Department teaching circle, Westfield State University:
“Sharing our Newest and Best Techniques in our Teaching”
- 2014 Composition workshop, Westfield State University:
“Teaching Students Transportable Moves and Understanding Discourse Communities”
- 2013 Sunken Garden Poetry Festival, Farmington, CT
- 2013 Composition workshop, Westfield State University:
“Performances, Posters and Postings, Oh My!: Assignment Design in Comp I and II”
- 2013 English Department teaching circle, Westfield State University: “Close Reading”
- 2013 Safe Zone diversity training, Westfield State University
- 2013 Eighth Annual Conference on the Teaching of Writing, University of Connecticut
- 2013 Composition workshop, Westfield State University:
“Promising Practices using Proposals for Research in Composition Classrooms”
- 2013 English Department teaching circle, Westfield State University:
“Beyond Think-Pair-Share: New Approaches to Collaborative Learning”
- 2012 Composition workshop, Westfield State University:
“Inquiry and Passion: The Self and Sources in Comp I”
- 2012 Writing workshop taught by Christian McEwen, Westfield State University

NON-ACADEMIC WORK

- Director/Editor, Perugia Press (2016-present)
- Copy editor, *Tight-Fisted Heart: A Son’s Search for Identity and Reconciliation* (2015)
- Academic Affairs consultant, Westfield State University (2012)
- Associate editor, *Gastronome* magazine (2004-2012)
- Admissions counselor, Hampshire College (1999-2004)
- Community book group facilitator, West Springfield Public Library (1998-1999)
- Student newspaper advisor, West Springfield High School (1998-1999)
- Proofreader, *The Advocate* newspapers (1994-1995)

AFFILIATIONS / MEMBERSHIPS

- Executive Council Non-Permanent Faculty Representative, MSCA WSU Chapter (2018-present)
- Founding member, poetry craft and critique collective (2015-present)
- Member, Academy of American Poets (2015-present)
- WSU English Department Composition Committee member (2015-2017)
- Board member, Perugia Press (2013-present)
- Advisory committee, “30 Poems in November!” literacy project (2012-present)
- Founding member, Straw Dog Writers Guild (2012-present)
- Member, Association of Writers & Writing Programs (AWP) (2012-present)
- Member, Friends of the Emily Dickinson Museum (2012-present)
- Member, “Second Edition” book group (2012-2015)

Advisory board member, *Journal of Massachusetts History* (2012-2013)

Poetry contest screener and judge, Perugia Press (2010-2016)

Founding member, "Working Titles" creative writing collective (2001-present)

Elected member, Faculty Advisory Council, West Springfield High School (1997-1999)

Updated 6 March 2019