



A POETRY IN PERFORMANCE EVENT

Sunday, April 16, 2-4 p.m.

Anderson Room A, Salem Public Library, 585 Liberty St. SE

Admission Free • Open Mic • Books Available for Purchase

POETRY & MADNESS: RECLAMATION THROUGH RADICAL EMPATHY

*In this time of crisis in mental health, especially for the unhoused and disenfranchised, **Carter McKenzie and Willa Schneberg** will read poems in dialogue relating to the history and the current situation of those labeled as different. They will show how the poet's ability to envision the lives of others is a vehicle to bear witness and to foster social change.*

Carter McKenzie is the author of a chapbook *Naming Departure* (Traprock Books, 2004), and two full-length books of poetry, *Out of Refusal* (Airlie Press, 2010) and *Stem of Us* (Flowstone Press, 2018). Most recently, her poems have been featured in *Tikkun Magazine* and McKenzie River Trust's *Winter Writers Series*. She is an active member of the Springfield-Eugene Chapter of SURJ/Showing Up for Racial Justice.



McKenzie writes, *I experience poetry as a necessary way of being alive and present in the world. Such presence—experienced in the moment of the necessary poem—lives and stirs with its own agency. It is subversive, knows more than we do, and is a way of unexpected connection with the human and more than human. Such connection is transformative, a portal out of brokenness—however fleeting—healing through the unnamable resonance of poetry, a way through.*



Willa Schneberg is a poet, ceramic sculptor, interdisciplinary artist, curator, and a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in private practice in Portland. She is the author of five prior collections. In March, she presented at literary and mental health venues in Glasgow, Scotland. This August, she will have a solo exhibition of ceramic sculpture and photography at Astoria Visual Arts.

Schneberg's new poetry collection, *The Naked Room*, is a true synthesis of her life as psychotherapist (for over 25 years) and her life as a poet. She has been touched by mental health issues in both her private and her professional life. All her books have, to a certain degree, explored troubling emotions and the capacity for resilience.

*Program made possible, in part, by a grant
from the Marion Cultural Development Corporation*

