

The West Chester University Poetry Center
Call for Proposals
CrAft: West Chester University's Virtual Poetry and Creative Arts Festival
April 7-10, 2021
Submission Deadline: January 15, 2021

The West Chester University Poetry Center is excited to announce this Call for Presentations for CrAft: West Chester University's Virtual Poetry and Creative Arts Festival, April 7-10, 2021. The theme for our inaugural gathering is *The Healing Power of Empathy*. Molly Peacock will be our Keynote Speaker.

Our gathering will occur little over a year after COVID-19 emerged bringing with it masks and isolation. At some point, many of us have struggled with fear as well as the loss of connection from those who were closest to us. Now, more than ever, we need to be seen, heard, and understood. CrAft: WCU's Virtual Poetry and Creative Arts Festival, gives us the opportunity to focus on the synergy of creativity and connection, as we revel in the healing power of empathy.

Working with a shared respect and understanding of craft, The Virtual Poetry and Creative Arts Festival will give poets and critics, musicians, as well as visual and performing artists opportunities to forge connections across disciplinary bounds, to delve into innovative approaches to artmaking, to engage new media and technology, to reconsider the power of revision, and to sharpen their critical lenses.

We welcome proposals for innovative, experimental, multi-media and/or multi-modal presentations, readings, panels, and performances from students, faculty and independent artists that include, but are not limited to, the following topics:

- Creativity as Healing
- Empathy
- Ekphrasis
- Form
- Graphic Novels
- The Line
- New Works/New Media
- Pandemic Arts
- Political Arts
- Poetry and/as Survival
- Revision
- Rhyme

Creative proposals should include an example of the work that you would like to present (such as 3-5 poems, or an image of the artwork, or an audio or video file of a performance) accompanied by a 150 word abstract and a short CV (no more than 5 pages). Critical proposals should include a 200-400 word abstract along with a short CV (no more than 5 pages).

If you had a proposal accepted for the Spring 2020 WCU Poetry Conference, please resubmit it.

Please send proposals to poetry@wcupa.edu with Festival in the subject line by January 15, 2021. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Cherise A. Pollard (cpollard@wcupa.edu).