

Tab 1

Taking inspiration from the “[Fall of Freedom](#)” project, WRITE ABOUT NOW will take place on a winter afternoon at the end of 2025 when you might enter the Parkside Lounge in daylight and exit into gloaming. It will involve nine writers responding to the moment. Hosted by Donald Breckenridge and Eugene Lim.



WRITE ABOUT NOW:

Saturday, December 13, 2025
2-4pm

[Parkside Lounge](#)
[317 East Houston](#)
[New York, NY 10002](#)

With:

[Gina Apostol](#)
[Donald Breckenridge](#)
[Lisa Chen](#)
[Jared Daniel Fagen](#)
[Edwin Frank](#)
[Haleh Gafari](#)
[Eugene Lim](#)
[Daisuke Shen](#)
[Christopher Sorrentino](#)

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Gina Apostol has written five novels, among them *Insurrecto*, named by *Publishers Weekly* one of the Ten Best Books of 2018, and her most recent, *La Tercera*. She has been awarded the Rome Prize, the PEN/Open Book Award, and two Philippine National Book Awards, among other honors, fellowships, and residencies. She grew up in Tacloban, Leyte, in the Philippines, and lives in New York City and western Massachusetts.

Donald Breckenridge has written five novels including *As It Falls* (Ellipsis Press) & *And Then* (Godine/Black Sparrow Press), edited two fiction anthologies, and introduced the NYRB Classics edition of *Henri Duchemin and His Shadows* by Emmanuel Bove. He was the fiction editor of the *Brooklyn Rail* for nineteen years, and co-founded and co-edited *InTranslation*.

Lisa Hsiao Chen wrote a book of poems, *Mouth*, published by Kaya Press, and a novel, *Activities of Daily Living*, a New Yorker Best Book of 2022. She recently received a Warhol Arts Writing Grant to write a series of essays about the painter Martin Wong and welcomes recommendations for books and movies about trains for a stalled project.

Jared Daniel Fagen is the author of *The Animal of Existence* (Black Square Editions, 2022). His poems, prose, and conversations have appeared in *The Brooklyn Rail*, *Fence*, *Lana Turner*, and *Asymptote*, among other publications. He is an adjunct assistant professor of poetry in the Writing MFA program at Columbia University, an adjunct lecturer in English literature at the City College of New York, a PhD candidate in Comparative Literature at the CUNY Graduate Center, and the editor and publisher of Black Sun Lit. Born in Jeollanam-do, South Korea, he lives in Brooklyn and the western Catskills.

Edwin Frank is the editorial director of New York Review Books and the founder of the NYRB Classics series. Born in Boulder, Colorado, and educated at Harvard College and Columbia University, he has been a Wallace Stegner Fellow and a Lannan Fellow and is a member of the New York Institute for the Humanities. He has taught in the Columbia Writing Program and served on the jury of the 2015 Booker International Prize. A Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres and a recipient of a lifetime award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters for distinguished service to the arts, he is the author of *Snake Train: Poems 1984–2013* and *Stranger Than Fiction: Lives of the Twentieth-Century Novel*.

Haleh Liza Gafari is a translator, performance artist, poet, vocalist, and educator born in NYC of Persian descent. Her acclaimed translations of poems by the 13th century sage Rumi have been published in two volumes *Gold* (2022) and *Water* (2025) by New York Review Books/NYRBClassics.

Eugene Lim is the author of five novels, including *Search History*, *Dear Cyborgs*, and the forthcoming *Space Bar*. He is the publisher of Ellipsis Press and a high school librarian.

Daisuke Shen is the author of the short story collection *Vague Predictions & Prophecies* (CLASH Books 2024), which was a finalist for the 2025 CLMP Firecracker Award, as well as the novella *Funeral* (with Vi Khi Nao, KERNPUNKT Press 2023). They live in New York City.

Christopher Sorrentino is the author of six books, including *Trance*, a National Book Award Finalist for fiction, *The Fugitives*, and *Now Beacon, Now Sea*, a New York Times Notable Book in 2021. His work has appeared in *A Public Space*, *The Baffler*, *The Believer*, *BOMB*, *Bookforum*, *Conjunctions*, *Esquire*, *Fence*, *Granta*, *Harper's*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *McSweeney's*, *The New York Times*, *Open City*, *The Paris Review*, *Playboy*, *Tin House*, and many other publications. He has received fellowships from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, the Lannan Foundation, the New York Foundation for the Arts, and the Ludwig Vogelstein Foundation, and he was Writer-in-Residence at Fairleigh Dickinson University in 2011. He also has taught at Columbia University, NYU, the New School, and at the Unterberg Poetry Center of the 92nd Street Y.

Bios

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Public Space, The Baffler, The Believer, BOMB, Bookforum, Conjunctions, Esquire, Fence, Granta, Harper's, The Los Angeles Times, McSweeney's, The New York Times, Open City, The Paris Review, Playboy, Tin House, and many other publications. He has received fellowships from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, the Lannan Foundation, the New York Foundation for the Arts, and the Ludwig Vogelstein Foundation, and he was Writer-in-Residence at Fairleigh Dickinson University in 2011. He also has taught at Columbia University, NYU, the New School, and at the Unterberg Poetry Center of the 92nd Street Y.