

Women of New Fabulism and Speculative Literature: A Reading

Fabulism and speculative literature have long employed the bizarre, unexpected, and impossible to better reflect human experience. Recent political and societal changes, such as anti-trans laws, the overturning of Roe vs. Wade, and the attack on no-fault divorce make the seemingly impossible much more expected, and these genres feel increasingly relevant and prescient. Join us for a reading by writers who use the weird to reflect on what it means to be female in an increasingly fraught world.

ORGANIZER, MODERATOR & PARTICIPANT:



Sarah Kain Gutowski (she/her/hers) is the author of *The Familiar*, a fabulist narrative-in-poems female existential crisis, and *Fabulous Beast*, winner of the 14th annual National Indies Excellence Award for Poetry. With interdisciplinary artist Meredith Starr, she is co-creator of *Every Second Feels Like Theft*, a conversation in cyanotypes and poetry, and *It's All Too Much*, a limited-edition audio project. Her poetry has appeared in various print and online journals, including *The Gettysburg Review*, *The Threepenny Review*, *Painted Bride*

Quarterly, and *The Southern Review*. A member of the National Book Critics Circle, her criticism has been published by *Colorado Review*, *Calyx: A Journal of Art and Literature by Women*, and *New York Journal of Books*.

Website: www.sarahkaingutowski.com

Social media handles:

X/Twitter: @SKGutowski **Instagram/Threads:** @sarahkaingutowski

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/sarahkaingutowskiauthor/>

Email: sarah.kain.gutowski@gmail.com

Favorite Fabulist & Speculative Magazines: *Fairy Tale Review*, *Phantom Drift: A Journal of New Fabulism*, *The Fabulist*

Favorite Women Fabulist & Speculative Writers: Amber Sparks, Rachel Yoder, Carmen Maria Machado, Ananda Lima, Jennifer Givhan

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EVENT PARTICIPANTS:



Nic Anstett, a writer from Baltimore, MD, loves the bizarre, spectacular, and queer. She is a graduate from the University of Oregon's MFA program and has attended workshops through the Clarion Foundation, Lambda Literary, and Tin House, where she was a 2021 scholar. Her fiction can be found in publications such as *One Story*, *Witness Magazine*, *Passages North*, and *Lightspeed Magazine* and has been nominated for anthologies like the Pushcart Prize and Best of the Net. Nic has also written essays and articles for *Autostraddle* and *Tor.com*.

She is currently at work on a collection of short stories and a novel.

Website: nicanstett.com

Favorite Fabulist & Speculative Magazines: *Strange Horizons*, *Lightspeed Magazine*, *Outlook Springs*, *The Dark*, *Tor.com* (Other Magazines I like who publish spec: *Black Warrior Review*, *Granta*, *McSweeney's Quarterly Review*, *North American Review*, *One Story*)

Favorite Women Speculative Writers: Carmen Maria Machado, Karen Russell, Charlie Jane Anders, Allison Rumfitt, Senaa Ahmad, KC Mead-Brewer, Laura Van Den Berg, K-Ming Chang, Kelly Link, Puloma Ghosh



Carolyn Oliver is the author of *The Alcestis Machine* (Acre Books, forthcoming 2024), *Inside the Storm I Want to Touch the Tremble* (University of Utah Press, 2022; selected for the Agha Shahid Ali Prize), and three chapbooks. Her writing appears or is forthcoming in *Copper Nickel*, *Poetry Daily*, *Image*, *Fairy Tale Review*, *Peripheries*, *Indiana Review*, *Consequence*, and elsewhere. She lives in Massachusetts, where she is a 2023-2024 Artist in Residence at Mount Auburn Cemetery.

Website: <https://carolynoliver.net/>

Social media handles:

Instagram, Threads, X/Twitter, Threads, Bluesky: @CarolynROliver

Favorite Fabulist & Speculative Magazines: *hex* (<https://hexliterary.com/>), *Passages North*, *Fairy Tale Review*, *X-R-A-Y*, *Cutleaf*

Favorite Speculative Writers: Franny Choi, Jessica Cuello, Sally Wen Mao, Shanta Lee Gander, K-Ming Chang, Kate McIntyre, Joe Aguilar

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Aimee Parkison is the author of eight books of fiction, including *Refrigerated Music for a Gleaming Woman*, winner of the FC2 Catherine Doctorow Innovative Fiction Prize. She writes to explore voices and open doors to unusual journeys through language. She teaches fiction writing in the Creative Writing Program at Oklahoma State University and is the new Fiction Editor of *The Cimarron Review*. Her work has appeared in numerous literary journals, in translation in Italian, and in the *Best Small Fictions* anthology series. Parkison serves on the

FC2 Board of Directors. Her fiction has appeared in numerous literary journals such as *North American Review*, *the Fabulist*, *Puerto Del Sol*, and *Five Points*. Her recent book, *Suburban Death Project*, published by Unbound Edition, is a collection of stories about people who haunt each other while still alive.

Website: www.aimeeparkison.com

Social media handles:

X/Twitter: @AimeeParkison **Instagram:** @aimeeparkison

Email: aimee@okstate.edu

Favorite Speculative Magazines: *The Fabulist*, *Uncanny*, *Conjunctions*, *FC2*, *Kernpunkt*

Favorite Women Speculative Writers: Agustina Bazterrica (*Tender is the Flesh*), Octavia E. Butler, Angela Carter, Katherine Dunn (*Geek Love*), Nalo Hopkinson



Chloe Chun Seim (she/her/hers) is the author of the George Garrett Fiction Prize-winning novel, *Churn*. Her fiction has appeared in *Split Lip Magazine*, *LitMag*, *Potomac Review*, *McNeese Review*, and more. She has received the 2021 Anton Chekov Award for Flash Fiction from *LitMag* and the Fractured Lit Anthology I Prize. She earned her MFA from the University of Missouri-Kansas City and currently lives in Lawrence, KS.

Website: <https://chloechunseim.com>

Social media handles:

Twitter/X handle: @Chloe_Chun

Bluesky: @chloechun.bsky.social

Email: cchunseim@gmail.com

Favorite Magazines that print Fabulist & Speculative work: *Split Lip Magazine*; *Fractured Literary*; *Black Warrior Review*; *North American Review*; *McSweeney's*

Favorite Women Speculative Writers: K-Ming Chang; Tara Stillions Whitehead; Kelly Link; Carmen Maria Machado