

Sky O'Brien

English and Creative Writing, School of Nations, 110-D
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Education

M.F.A, Creative Writing & Poetics

University of Washington, Bothell, WA, June 2022

Thesis advisors: Ted Hiebert and Joe Milutis

Thesis: *Beginners, or The First Voyage of Discovery* (novella)

B.A., English: Creative Writing

Principia College, Elsah, IL, May 2018

Highest Honors; Member of Phi Alpha Eta

Teaching Experience

Principia College, Elsah, IL, 2022 - 2023; 2024 - present

Visiting Professor, English and Creative Writing; Writing Center

Faculty Advisor, *Mistake House Magazine*, Issue 11

Courses taught:

- WRIT 120: Reading Words and the World
- WRIT 141: Solve Literacy Mysteries
- WRIT 158: Reading and Writing Inquiry
- ENGL 202: Understanding Poetry
- ENGL 220: Environmental Literature
- ENGL 239: Intro to Creative Nonfiction
- ENGL 241: Fiction Writing I
- ENGL 291: Fiction Writing II
- ENGL 351: Advanced Creative Writing Seminar
- ENGL 353: Literary Editing
- ENGL 354: Literary Editing Practicum

University of Washington, Bothell, WA, 2022

Grader, Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences,

BIS 132: Introduction to Photography, Prof. Ted Hiebert

Principia College, Elsah, IL, 2018 - 2019

Post-Graduate Teaching Intern, English Department

Courses assisted:

- ENGL 241: Fiction Writing II
- ENGL 234: The Language of Film

- ENGL 253: Gender Studies in Literature
- ENGL 351: Adv. Creative Writing Seminar
- ENGL 388: Literature and Critical Theory

Magazine Editing

Dispatches Magazine, Berkeley, CA, 2020 - present

Contributor, 2020 - 2022

Deputy Editor, 2022 - present (Issues III, IV, V, and VI)

- Acquired poetry by sam sax, Yusef Komunyakaa, Rosie Stockton, Mónica de la Torre

Mistake House Magazine, Elmhurst, IL, 2018; 2025 - present

Editor in Chief, 2018 (Issue 4)

- Interviewed poet Rajiv Mohabir and artist Rudy Shepherd

Faculty Advisor, 2025 - present

- Facilitated interviews writer Suzanne Scanlon and artist Sayuri Ichida

Publications

Essays and reviews

“Dispatches at the DNC” in *Dispatches Magazine*, 19-22 Aug, 2024.

“Through a Screen, Darkly” in *Dispatches Magazine*, 16 Feb 2024.

“Steinberg’s Tantric Universe” in *Dispatches Magazine*, 19 May 2023.

“Postpostwar: Postwar Modern at the Barbican” in *Dispatches Magazine*, 28 Oct 2022.

“Dreams of Iron” in *Artworks for Jellyfish*, eds. Ted Hiebert & Amanda Boetzkes, 2022.

“The Art of War” in *Dispatches Magazine*, 10 May 2022.

“The Gift That Keeps on Giving” in *Dispatches Magazine*, 20 Dec 2021.

“Lost, Damned and Confused” in *Dispatches Magazine*, 18 Jul 2021.

“We’re Not Done Yet” in *Dispatches Magazine*, 12 May 2021.

“Vigil in Perth” in *Dispatches Magazine*, 10 Nov 2020.

Interviews

“Person-to-Person: Leonardo Drew” in *Dispatches Magazine*, forthcoming.

“Person-to-Person: Willis Barnstone” in *Dispatches Magazine*, 17 July 2024.

“In Conversation: Susan Chen” in *Dispatches Magazine*, 13 Aug 2023.

“Person-to-Person: Sarah Schulman” in *Dispatches Magazine*, 5 Sep 2023.

“Person-to-Person: Alfredo Jaar” in *Dispatches Magazine*, 26 July 2023.

Poetry

Her Prophecies of Cake with Amy Hirayama, *FFFAFFF Press*, Jul 2023 (chapbook).

“Forest dream” and “Edge of the Forest” in *Clamor* 2022.

“Four poems” in *Hex Enduction Quarterly* Summer 2021.

“Harold, a young accountant” in *High Shelf Press* online, March 2019.

Fiction

“Dream Tonight of Peacock Tails” in *Dispatches Magazine*, 13 December 2024.

“The Cleaning Tools of Amateur Astronomers” in *Maestranza Magazine*.

“The Story” in *Maestranza Magazine*, Sep 2023.

Beginners: Or, The First Voyage of Discovery (MFA Thesis), Jun 2022.

“Three pieces from a fiction in progress” in *Hex Enduction Quarterly* Spring 2022.

“Shoes in the Suburbs” in *Puerto del Sol* online, Jun 2019.

“The Union” in *NonBinary Review* online, Apr 2019.

“Harry’s Bird” in *Drunk Monkeys* online, Feb 2019.

“Engineers” in Principia College Creative Writing Contest 2018 (1st place).

“Appliance” in Principia College Creative Writing Contest 2016 (2nd place).

“65 Inches Wide and 37 Inches High” in *Mistake House* online, May 2017.

“Escaping Reality” in Armadale Young Writers’ Award, 2011 (1st place).

Art exhibits

Gallery shows

Schmidt Gallery, Principia College 2018. Exhibited work in the inaugural “Juried Student Exhibition,” receiving two honorable mentions.

Radford Gallery, Principia College 2017. Exhibited artworks in “Thirteen Ways of Looking at Prague” and “Radford Pop-Up Exhibition.”

Art Gallery of Western Australia 2014. “Give Us This Day Our Daily Facebook” included in the annual Perspectives exhibition.

Film screenings

Short films

Common Area Maintenance, Seattle, March 2023. “University Bridge” co-produced with Eric Acosta and Skye Michel.

Grand Illusion Cinema, Seattle, May 2022. “all leisure no work” co-produced with Eric Acosta.

Cox Auditorium, Principia College Film Festival 2016. “I am wood” (awarded best cinematography).

Selected Presentations, Workshops, Readings, and Appearances

Readers and Writers, Reef to Range – Writing Festival

Ravensthorpe and Hopetoun, Western Australia, June 2025

Workshops offered:

- Scriptwriting
- Experimental Methods
- Writing in the National Park

Creative Writing Studies Organization – 9th Annual Conference

Virginia Tech University, VA, November 2024

Panel offered with Professor Emerita Dinah Ryan and Professor Sara Wienecke:

- “The Tapas Method: Small Bites and Creative Writing”

M.F.A in Creative Writing & Poetics – Fall Convergence on Poetics

University of Washington, Bothell, WA, September 2024

Generative writing workshop offered with Amy Hirayama:

- “What I Could Never Be” (after Fernando Pessoa)

Dispatches Magazine – Launch Parties

2727 Gallery, Berkeley, CA

- Issue V, October 2024
- Issue IV, August 2023

Fiction readings at Underbelly and Damn the Weather, Seattle

Selected Awards

- M.F.A Catalyst Award (University of Washington, Bothell, 2022)
- William H. Selmeier Literary Award (Principia College, 2018)
- Special Merit Award for Student Publications (Principia College, 2018)