

Jenuine Poetess Press Kit

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Available to book for:

Spoken-Word Performance Artist

Workshop Facilitator (*children-8 years and older, adolescents, adults*)

Guest Speaker/Presenter

Arts Programming Consultant

Therapeutic Creative Writing Program Facilitator (*youth*)

Author/Feature Readings

Panelist



(photo credit: Tapia Corel)

Extended Bio:

Jenuine Poetess has poemed her way through California and Texas since 2002. She is the founder of [Waco Poets Society](#) (2013) and [ITWOW International](#) (2010)--a grassroots writing circle project with chapters in Los Angeles, Texas, and Lebanon. Along with Sarah Frances Moran, Jenuine co-edited ITWOW International's first printed anthology, published by Yellow Chair Press Spring 2016. With over 70 contributors spanning 4 continents, 6 countries, many generations, ethnicities, roles, and identities this collection is a stunning global glimpse into the depths of the I am/I am not dichotomy.

Jenuine's poetry and prose have or will be appearing in such publications as, *Rushing Waters, Rising Dreams: How Art Transforms Communities* (Tia Chucha Press 2012), *LOUDmouth Zine* (CSULA 2011), *Mujeres de Maiz Anthology* (2012), *di-verse-city AIPF Anthology* (2013), *Harbinger Asylum* (Transcendent Zero Press, 2013, 2014), *The Feminist Wire* (2014), *The Elephant Journal* (2014), *Final Poems* (Entropy Magazine, 2015), *100Thousand Poets for Change Global Anthology* (2015), *Rock the Chair* (Yellow Chair Press, 2015), *Dead Snakes* (2016), *Poems for All* (2016), *Yellow Chair Review Anthology* (Yellow Chair Press, 2016), *Coiled Serpent: Poets arising from the cultural quakes and shifts of Los Angles* (Tia Chucha Press, 2016), and *Texas Poetry Calendar* (Dos Gatos Press, 2017).

Jenuine's debut chapbook, *BloodStories: a cycle of 28 poems* (Yellow Chair Press, 2016) is a poetic grappling through bleeding and becoming, deconstruction and healing, question-asking and discovery. This collection of poems spanning several years and a range of topics across a broad spectrum of social and personal justice issues is a literary rite of passage, a coming of age, a declaration of truths unapologetic.

In addition to her poetry works, Jenuine serves as a co-editor and periodic contributor for Act Locally Waco's monthly [Mental Health Blog](#), and is the writer for Act Locally Waco's monthly [Arts and Culture Blog](#). She has contributed to [Not My Taboo](#) blog and is the founder, editor, and midwife of truths at [Unsilent](#).

As a spoken-word artist, Jenuine has graced stages and classrooms, cafes and community spaces as a performance poet in Los Angeles; Waco, Austin, and San Antonio, Texas; and Salerno, Italy. In early 2016, Jenuine was a featured poet at BookWoman's Second Thursday Open Mic hosted by Cindy Huyser in Austin, Texas; a featured poet at *Unsilent :: Survivors Speak* at the Hippodrome in Waco, Texas. In 2015 she featured at *La Palabra Poetry Series* at Avenue 50 Studios in Los Angeles; *Tia Chucha's Centro Cultural Open Mic* in Sylmar, CA; *100Thousand Poets for Change Global Conference* in Salerno, Italy; and the *Hunger and Justice Summit Conference* by Texas Hunger Institute in Waco, Texas.

Rooted in the conviction that creative health is a matter of justice, Jenuine organizes arts programming in her community empowering herself and others to realize their creative visions. When she is not curating the written & spoken-word arts for others, she enjoys crafting weird visual poems (paintings, collages) and pondering artful ways to disrupt the homeostasis.

She can be found on twitter and instagram at: @JenuineArtworks; on facebook at: /JenuineArtworks; and her website: www.jenuineartworks.com.

Brief Bio: (100 words)

Jenuine Poetess is the founder of Waco Poets Society and ITWOW International--a writing circle project for womyn with chapters globally which released its first anthology via Yellow Chair Press in April 2016. Her debut chapbook, *BloodStories: a cycle of 28 poems* was published by Yellow Chair Press, May 2016. Jenuine is the founder, editor and midwife of truths for [Unsilent](#) an international blog where #courageiscontagious and there is #medicineinyourmetoo. Jenuine lives rooted in the fierce conviction that fostering the creative health of individuals & communities is a matter of justice. You may find her online at: www.jenuineartworks.com and @JenuineArtworks.

Micro Bio: (50 words)

Jenuine Poetess is an artist, writer, and community organizer who lives rooted in the fierce conviction that fostering the creative health of individuals & communities is a matter of justice. Jenuine is the author of *BloodStories* and the founder of Waco Poets Society and ITWOW International. Connect here: www.jenuineartworks.com; @JenuineArtworks.

Virtual Interview:

<https://cindyhuysen.wordpress.com/2016/02/06/a-virtual-interview-with-jenuine-poetess/>

Presentation Reviews:

I had the pleasure of working with Jenuine Poetess during the summer of 2014, during Baylor's University for Young people gifted and talented summer Spoken Word/Poetry session. Well-known for her advocacy of the arts, specifically poetry and spoken word, Jenuine was incredibly helpful as I planned the curriculum of the course.

Most importantly, in speaking to my students, she offered tentative teenagers--new to writing and performing poetry--confidence in their own voices. She added legitimacy to my own teaching and encouraged the link between the classroom and community. She willingly highlighted youth community opportunities in which students could participate, supporting the mission of the Baylor GT summer program for community outreach. Her enthusiasm about her craft was palpable and contagious as she performed original works and provided a creative writing exercise for my students.

Partially as a result of our initial interactions, use of poetry and spoken word within the social studies has evolved as an academic research interest for me, and she continues to consult with me in these research endeavors. She is an invaluable community advocate and resource.

Dr. Sunny Wells
Social Studies Content Specialist
Curriculum and Instruction, College of Education
Baylor University

Praise for *BloodStories*:

Jenuine's voice is a skillful soul dance between the internal and external, transcendent and imminent, spirit and matter, dream and reality. Blood as a constant motif invites deep flowing as well as constant pouring of life liquid, which also traverses these lines, these images, these words. Thank you Jenuine for that moon glow, rain mist, woman flower. Reading *BloodStories*, I felt like a thirsty hummingbird gorging on precious nectar.

--Luis J. Rodriguez, Los Angeles Poet Laureate, author of *Borrowed Bones* and *My Nature is Hunger*

As I read *BloodStories* I let each drop of lost blood saturate my eyes, hands, and history. Jenuine Poetess is not only exercising her history, but the history of every person who has ever suffered in silence, illuminating the path for every person who has succumbed to the *griefscream* of disbelief, heartbreak, and disappointment. The weight of her words are for everyone, a must read for all, as each poem elucidates the long and bloody tradition of forced subordination of femme bodies under patriarchy.

-Caseyrenée Lopez, Founder/Editor-in-Chief of *Crab Fat Magazine*

Throughout Jenuine Poetess' verses '*...you will find / all our stories spilling out / the deep red blood of / our throbbing / our thriving*'. This poet sings with a timeless, soulful lyricism rare among modern poets who play safe and lean toward prosaic language. In *BloodStories* we experience the shock and warm familiarity of blood as a signal of hurt, its shedding an inevitable part of the cycles of nature – all the while remaining the essence of life, and poetry, itself.

- Allan Aquino, poet and professor of Asian American Studies, California State University, Northridge

Reading *BloodStories* is like gazing deep into a glass abyss, waiting for the day when life goes back to normal, until you discover normal is living with the broken panes. Identity lies in the catastrophic trials, where growth through isolation reveals an elegant new strength. Jenuine Poetess reveals a glimpse of the trek within many of us, along with the very descriptive cycles of survival.

–Libbie Toler, writer

Bloodstories is thick with pains and memories, challenges, sorrows and reflections. Harsh truths mix with tender joy. Like a good cleansing these poems go deep, unafraid of revealing and voicing, leaving behind that which no longer serves a vibrant life. These poems flow unstoppable, like her. Bravo Jenuine!

- Trini Rodriguez, writer

Life giving, embarrassing. Self-realizing, painful. Oozing, running, sticky, leaking into panties or flowing onto paper through words. A celebration of you, us, we, them. A declaration of me. Crimson means life. Good, bad. But life. Jenuine has shared her crimson, her life in these words. She is poetess. She is woman.

- Chris Billings, poet

Classes and Workshops:

Page To Stage: written & spoken-word performance techniques

May 26-July 7, 2016 | 6:30-8:30pm | McLennan Community College Continuing Education | Waco, TX

Page to Stage welcomes all who desire to cultivate, learn, and polish both their writing skills and performance practice. Participants will engage in writing exercises to sharpen and explore their own dynamic writing style and voice; will be introduced to various performance styles; will learn how to prepare for performance (breathing, relaxation, and warm-up exercises); will practice performing and reviewing performances; will learn how to critique self and give/receive constructive feedback with classmates.

This will be a safe space to learn, experiment, and build confidence. We will have fun as we grow together! Creative writers such as poets, spoken-word artists, and prose authors (fiction, memoir, non-fiction) who give readings will find value in this class.

Brave Young Voices: Therapeutic Creative Writing for youth

April 2016 – present | Klaras Center for Families | Waco, TX

-and-

InsideOUTLOUD: Therapeutic Creative Writing for youth

May 2016 – present | Texas Juvenile Justice Department Correctional Facility | Mart, TX

Through the various components of each session, youth learn valuable skills—supplemental academic learning; positive coping/expression; giving & receiving constructive feedback; public speaking & performance technique; confidence; resilience training; and team-work.

As youth move through writing and sharing they begin to learn the process of introspection and self-awareness which fosters responsibility-taking, maturity, and empathy for others. Youth may have a chance to publish their works in a collection at the end of the year and may have other opportunities to enter contests or publication calls.

Youth are empowered to learn that their stories, thoughts, and feelings matter, and when they have the tools to express them in meaningful and constructive ways, they can make meaningful, positive choices across the whole of their lives.

In the Words of Womyn: writing circle

January 2010 – present | Los Angeles, Texas, Lebanon

ITWOW writing circle is a weekly gathering where womyn writers of all ages, levels, styles, genres, and languages may practice, discuss, and explore the written and spoken-word arts by:

- Empowering womyn's voices through the practice of writing and sharing original work aloud;
- Providing an inspiring and affirming atmosphere for positive critique, affirmation, and development writing/performing skills;
- Fostering opportunities for each participant to explore and develop her identity as a writer; to find—and use—her voice; and to enjoy building relationships & community with other womyn writers.

Author Photos:



(photo credit: Jenuine Poetess)



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