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<https://artlitlab.org/mvpf>

Midwest Video Poetry Fest Screening
with Live Filmmaker + Poet Performance

Madison, WI—The fourth year of the Midwest Video Poetry Festival (MVPF) takes place October 14 and 15, 2023 at Arts + Literature Laboratory In Madison, WI and also at Woodland Pattern in Milwaukee, WI. The festival costs \$5 at the door for both venues. The Madison event features Live Filmmaker + Poet Performances from local filmmakers and poets in addition to our two-evening screenings of video poems from Madison and Milwaukee as well as countries including Canada, Belgium and Spain. This unique film festival celebrates the amazing breadth of expression when one of humanity's oldest art forms is interpreted through the lens of one of its newest. It has featured the best of this cutting-edge art form throughout the Midwest and from around the world, including work from 21 states and 28 countries.

Presented by Madison's Arts + Literature Laboratory, MVPF will kick-off the festival with the Night 1 screening on Saturday, October 14th at 7pm. Night 1 features work by poet, educator and Cave Canem co-founder Cornelius Eady along with Director Matthew Thompson as well as an animated film from local Madison filmmaker Michelle Kelley. Following the screening in Madison, there will be a Live Filmmaker + Poet performance that includes poet Dana Maya and filmmaker Aaron Granat along with poet Cynthia Marie Hoffman and filmmaker Natalie Hinckley. The following day, Sunday 10/15 at 7pm, the screening features work from Cave Canem fellow Quenton Baker and a Milwaukee based filmmaker and writer, Gabriella Cisneros. The second evening Live Filmmaker + Poet Performance will feature award winning poet and Lorraine Hansberry Professor of English at UW Madison, Quan Barry along with artist and filmmaker Chele Isaac.

The featured videos range from 24 seconds to over 6 minutes long. They have all been created within the last two years, many of them within the last few months, promising a fresh, contemporary point of view. "We all need poetry more than ever," says Festival founder and executive director Rita Mae Reese. "It is one of the most enduring forms of expression. It is now, especially, during times of upheaval and strife, that poets' voices are most needed; these are the voices that will carry us through."

"We're excited for the fourth year," says Genia Daniels, who has been overseeing the curation team and selection process. "where we are featuring more Madison and Milwaukee artists than

previous years. It's been really wonderful to see more submissions from Wisconsin and the Midwest in general. We introduced the Live Filmmaker + Poet Performances last year and it really generated a lot of conversation and excitement between artists. We loved seeing our audience excited about these collaborations and we're happy to bring back that part of our festival this year. When artists collaborate across disciplines it can open up the work in new and exciting ways. Our hope is that the work people see at our festival continues to create excitement in artists and poets and inspires them to make work of their own."

For a complete program, visit <https://artlitlab.org/mvvpf>.

The MVPF is a production of Arts and Literature Laboratory, a community-driven contemporary non-profit arts organization that supports the visual, literary, musical and performing arts, presents over 200 free or low-cost events per year, and offers year-round arts education for all ages. ALL nurtures innovation and the artistic growth of contemporary visual, literary, and performing artists; connects artists, resources and community; and fuels a passion for arts and literature.

**The Midwest Video Poetry Fest is supported by Hinckley Productions, FilmFreeway, Isthmus and Avol's Books