

2025 sealey challenge reading list



curated by Nicole Sealey & the University of Arizona Poetry Center

From From by Monica Youn

So, Stranger by Topaz Winters

Pills and Jacksonvilles by Jillian Weise

Midsummer by Derek Walcott

The Quiet Practices by TC Tolbert

Gay Heaven is a Dance Floor But I Can't Relax by Charles Theonia

Siren of Atlantis by Cedar Sigo

Westerly by Will Schutt

Every Sound is Not a Wolf by Alberto Ríos

Sonnets from a Cell by Bradley Peters

The Gathering of Bastards by Romeo Oriogun

Planetaria by Monica Ong

Open Leaves by Harryette Mullen

Joy in Service on Rue Tagore by Paul Muldoon

The Odd Month by Valeria Meiller (trans. Whitney DeVos)

Moon Mirrored Indivisible by Farid Matuk

Instructions for the Lovers by Dawn Lundy Martin

The Life Assignment by Ricardo Alberto Maldonado

The End of Everything and Everything That Comes After That by Nick Lantz

Blade by Blade by Danusha Laméris

I Imagine I Been Science Fiction Always by Douglas Kearney

Prelude to Bruise by Saeed Jones

Biologicity by Shin Hae-Uk (trans. Spencer Lee-Lenfield)

You Better Be Lightning by Andrea Gibson

Bubble Gum Stadium by Jalen Eutsey

Scream/Queen by CD Eskilson

Sturge Town by Kwame Dawes

Everytime a Knot is Undone, a God is Released by Barbara Chase-Riboud

I Hope This Helps by Samiya Bashir

Ugly Music by Diannely Antigua

Exit Opera by Kim Addonizio

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This list is a suggested starting point for readers. The Sealey Challenge celebrates the reading of all poetry and poets and acknowledges that no one list can contain all the multitudes that poetry encompasses. Thank you for joining us in our quest to #readmorepoetry every August!