

# ABBY MINOR

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## EDUCATION

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- M.F.A.      **Creative Writing, The Pennsylvania State University**, State College, PA • 2013
- Thesis: *Hoop Moon: Poems* (supervisor: Julia Kasdorf)
  - Awarded the Milton B. Dolinger Graduate Fellowship in Writing (2011& 2012)
- B.A.      **American Studies, Smith College**, Northampton, MA • 2008
- Thesis: *The Cultural Whitening of 19<sup>th</sup>-Century Appalachian Mountain Music & Sea Chanteys: Early Collectors' Oversights and Contemporary Reevaluation* (supervisor: Rebecca Miller)
  - Honors/ Awards: Newton Arvin Prize in American Studies (2006); Jessica Orlosky Memorial Scholarship Fund for Undergraduate Study (2006 & 2007)
  - Other Undergraduate Programs Completed: The Williams-Mystic Maritime Studies Program of Williams College and Mystic Seaport; Denmark's International Studies Program

## PUBLICATIONS

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### CHAPBOOKS

- *Real Words for Inside*, Gap Riot Press, Toronto. 2018.
- *Plant Light, Dress Light*. dancing girl press Chapbook Series, Chicago. 2016.

### POEMS

- "Some Interviews and Other Exquisite Business," *Apt.* forthcoming.
- "Innovation Nation," *Fence*, forthcoming.
- "American Quartet," *CutBank*. Vol 87.
- "Summer in Maine"; "Tenderly Diary," *BlazeVOX*. Spring 2017.
- "Photochromic Dress-Up"; "Song of the Girl Cousins"; "Remarks on the Storm Door"; "Hunger, 1979." *Slush Pile Magazine*. Winter 2016.
- "Memory of Fire, Sleeping." *Weave Magazine*. Forthcoming.
- "Wax"; "God Controls the Weather." *Hold the Line!*. Summer 2016.
- "Red Mountain." *So to Speak: a feminist journal of language and art*. Spring 2016.
- "The Chinquapin Tree." *We Have Taken and Eaten: A Monodrama for Solo Percussionist*. Project Schott New York. 2015.
- "An Inch of Air Belongs to Itself"; "Genesis: I"; "Genesis: A Little Later in the New Found Place." *The Fourth River*. Queering Nature on-line issue 0.2.
- "Whitetail." *Calyx Journal*. Vol. 28:3.

### ESSAYS & ESSAY-REVIEWS

- "Rooms." *Contrary Magazine*. Summer 2017. [<http://contrarymagazine.com/2017/rooms/>].

- “‘blind the way a dark-adapted animal is blind’: On *Fearful Beloved* by Khadijah Queen.” *Kenyon Review Online*. June 2017. [<https://www.kenyonreview.org/reviews/fearful-beloved-by-khadijah-queen-738439/>].
- “*Paterson*: Indie Quirks Can’t Hide Masculinist Frameworks.” *Feminist Current*. March 2017. [<http://www.feministcurrent.com/tag/abby-minor/>]
- “Out on This Red Edge.” *So to Speak: a feminist journal of language and art*. February 2017. [<http://sotospeakjournal.org/out-on-this-red-edge-a-lyric-essay-by-abby-minor/>].
- “Will the Real Folk Please Stand Up?: Rebellion, Authenticity, and Identity in *Hick Poetics*.” [On *Hick Poetics: An Anthology of Contemporary Rural American Poetry*, ed. Shelly Taylor and Abraham Smith.] *The Fourth River Online*. Winter 2016. [<http://www.thefourthriver.com/index.php/2016/12/book-review-hick-poetics>].
- Review of *Murder Ballad*, by Jane Springer. *The Florida Review*. Summer 2016.
- “Voices from Outside, Lit From Inside.” [On *Lit From Inside: Forty Years of Poetry from Alice James Books*, ed. Anne Marie Macari and Carey Salerno.] *AGNI Online*. 2014. [<http://www.bu.edu/agni/reviews/online/2014/minor.html>].
- Review of *Steam Laundry*, by Nicole Stellon O’Donnell. *Pleiades*. Winter 2014.
- “The Strength of Their Beliefs.” [On *The Evening Hour*, by Carter Sickels.] *New Letters*. Vol. 80/1, 2013-2014.
- “‘You are me. Or, more precisely, we are it.’” [On *A God in the House: Poets Talk About Faith*, ed. Katherine Towler and Ilya Kaminsky; *Who’s Yer Daddy?: Gay Writers Celebrate Their Mentors and Forerunners*, ed. Jim Elledge and David Groff.] *The Georgia Review*. Fall 2013.

## RESIDENCIES, FELLOWSHIPS, & AWARDS

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- Artist-in-Residence, The Ora Lerman Charitable Trust Artist-in-Residence Program at Soaring Gardens. Laceyville, PA. August 2018.
- 2018 Bitch Media Writing Fellowship in Sexual Politics.
- Artist-in-Residence, The Rensing Center. Pickens, South Carolina. January-February 2016.
- First Place in the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Abortion Rights Poetry Contest, judged by Sonya Renee Taylor and co-sponsored by The Abortion Care Network and Split This Rock (“Your Country and Everyone in it”).
- Best Poem in the 2014 Centre County Reads “Writing the (Un)Known” Writing Contest (“An Inch of Air Belongs to Itself”).
- Academy of American Poets 2013 Leonard Steinberg Memorial Prize, judged by Todd Boss (“The Velvet Season”).

## COLLABORATIONS & PROJECTS

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### COMMUNITY ART PROJECTS & EVENTS

- 2017 and 2018 Invited Poet & Reader, Poems from Life with Juniper Village, a project sponsored by the Pennsylvania Center for the Book and Juniper Village Senior Living at Brookline.
- Organizer, 2016-2017 Poetry Reading Series at the Green Drake Gallery. Millheim, PA.

- Director, The West Street Schoolhouse Artist-in-Residence Program, Aaronsburg, PA. [Launched in 2015, offers one-month summer residencies for three artists working in any discipline.]

## COLLABORATIONS

- Wildflower Swagger, a noise music performance duo. 2016-present.
- Lyricist, *We Have Taken and Eaten: A Monodrama for Solo Percussionist*, Millheim, PA; Altoona, PA; Williamsport, PA, 2015. Little Rock, AR, 2016. Vienna, Switzerland, 2018. [A collaboration with composer Scott Wollschlager and percussionist Kevin Sims; the project continues to tour nationally and internationally; the score, including the long poem from which the lyrics were drawn, was published by Project Schott New York in 2015.]
- Poet, *The Velvet Season: Loose-Leaf Poems*, 2015. [Collaborative letterpress project with graphic designer and master printer Scott Denison.]

## REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE PROJECTS

- The Red Clover Cuffs: One Artist, One Clinic. 2016-2017. [In collaboration with the West Alabama Women's Center of Tuscaloosa, AL; <https://www.generosity.com/community-fundraising/one-artist-one-clinic-the-red-clover-cuffs>].
- Buttons for All Options, 2016-present. [Homemade buttons in support of reproductive justice; proceeds go to All Options; <https://www.yourbackline.org/button-fundraiser-for-backline/>].
- Penns Valley Circle to Reduce Abortion Stigma, Centre County, PA, 2017-present. [Design and facilitate workshops, storytelling events, and community conversation to reduce abortion stigma.]

## ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP & TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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Founder & Programming Coordinator, Ridgelines Language Arts. 2017-present. [Ridgelines is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that provides expert language arts instruction to those who are impacted by stigma and injustice in the ridges and valleys of central Pennsylvania. [RidgelinesLanguageArts.org](http://RidgelinesLanguageArts.org).]

Founder and Facilitator, BEING HEARD: Honoring the Voices and Imaginations of Centre County's Elders. *Salem Hill Haven, Spring Mills, PA; Bellefonte Senior Center, Bellefonte, PA; Centre Crest, Bellefonte, PA*. 2012-present. [Spring- and fall-semester weekly poetry writing program for elders which publishes a chapbook each year, has been widely featured in local news outlets, and is supported by the Centre Foundation and The Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. Being Heard was selected from among the 1,175 projects funded by the PA Council on the Arts between 2013-2016 as one of the four Best of the Best projects in the commonwealth.]

After-School Arts & Creative Writing Instructor, Aaronsburg Community Building, Aaronsburg, PA, 2014-present. [Co-founder of after-school interdisciplinary arts classes for kids and teens; this class is the only ongoing extracurricular art opportunity in east Penns Valley.]

Founder and Instructor, Summer Art Camp at the Green Drake Community Arts Center, Millheim, PA, 2011-present. [Direct and co-teach an annual interdisciplinary arts camp which culminates in a student-designed gallery show, theatrical performance, installation, public sculpture, or parade.]

Founder and Facilitator, The Poetry Path at Indigo Wren's Nest Healing Arts Center, Bellefonte, PA, 2014-2016. [This monthly poetry class for adults emphasized exploration and experimentation for beginning writers.]

English Language Arts Instructor, Penn State's Summer Upward Bound Academy for Creative Studies, University Park, PA, 2014. [Designed and taught a small, discussion-based class on the reading and writing of place-based literature.]

Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA, 2011-2014

- Rhetoric and Composition (English 015)  
[Modified syllabus and designed assignments for sections of English 015 focused on the reading, writing, and productive discussion of social identity.]
- Rhetoric and Composition: Diversity (English 015A)  
[Built a collaborative English 015A syllabus with a four-instructor team; organized evening meetings and an end-of-semester symposium for all four course sections.]
- Introduction to Creative Writing (English 050)
- Writing Tutorial (English 005)

Sewing and Fashion-Design Instructor, Sitar Community Arts Center, Washington, D.C., 2010. [SCAC offers low-cost, community-based after-school art classes for kids and teens.]

## **ADDITIONAL TRAINING**

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Participant, Ethical Pedagogy Workshop, University Park, PA, 2013. [Day-long workshop focused on integrating an ethics framework in classroom teaching and syllabus design.]

Participant, Blockson Archives Teaching Workshop, The Pennsylvania State University Special Collections Library, University Park, PA, 2012. [Day-long workshop on lesson-planning with primary materials.]

Intern, Smithsonian Museum of American History, Washington, D.C., 2010. [Conducted research for upcoming exhibitions; assisted curators in the Division of Work and Industry; developed a database of educational materials for *On the Water*, a maritime history exhibition.]

Participant, NCBI Diversity Leadership Institute, Washington, D.C., 2009. [Trained to lead NCBI's Welcoming Diversity Workshop and Controversial Issues Process. NCBI is a non-profit leadership training organization dedicated to eliminating racism and other forms of prejudice.]

Participant, Social Justice Mediation Training, Smith College, Northampton, MA, 2008. [Week-long training.]

## **LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE**

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Signage Coordinator, Event 360, 2008. [Trained and worked closely with local volunteer crews in 14 U.S. cities for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer 3-Day fundraising walks; Event 360 produces large-scale events for non-profit organizations.]

Student Staff Member, Smith College Residential Life, Northampton, MA, 2007-2008. [Served as the House Coordinator for a cooperative living community of eighteen students; facilitated house meetings; worked as the liaison between students and the college; developed community-based programming; facilitated and participated in initiatives to educate campus residents about issues of social justice.]

## **VISUAL ART AND TEXTILE CRAFTS**

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### **SOLO SHOWS & GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

- Mystic Domestic: Paintings, Prints, & Textiles by Abby Minor and Mary Vollero. Green Drake Arts Gallery, Millheim, PA, July 2017.

- Woman with Story and Purple Bones: Drawings and Monotype Prints by Abby Minor, Cherry Alley Café, Lewisburg, PA, Sept. 2014.
- Blue Set: Monotype Prints by Abby Minor, Nuemann Gallery, Webster's Bookstore and Café, State College, PA, Oct. 2013.
- 30 Under 30, Green Drake Arts Gallery, Millheim, PA, Nov. 2011.

## WORK, EDUCATION, & AWARDS

- Artist Assistant, Stacy Levy Studios, Spring Mills, PA, 2014-present. [Assist nationally- and internationally-active sculptor with a variety of studio operations; Levy produces large-scale public art installations.]
- Almon Scholar, Penland School for Crafts, Penland, North Carolina, March-May 2009. [The Almon Scholarship is a merit-based award for an eight-week course in textiles.]
- Harold Grinspoon Entrepreneurial Spirit Award, Smith College, MA, 2006. [Awarded in support of entrepreneurial efforts as an artist and craftswoman.]
- Participant, Zea Mays Printmaking Studio, Florence, MA, 2012, 2013. [Studied with printmaker Joyce Silverstone over the course of two summers; Silverstone specializes in non-toxic printmaking techniques.]
- Student, Smith College Print Studio, Northampton, MA, 2006-2008. [Numerous classes and independent studies in off-set monoprinting.]

## SERVICE

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Board Member, Abortion Conversation Projects. 2017-present. [ACP reduces abortion stigma through seed grants distributed throughout the United States and internationally.]

Secretary, Aaronsburg Civic Club, Aaronsburg, PA, 2015-present. [The Aaronsburg Civic Club provides educational and cultural opportunities in east Penns Valley, Centre County, Pennsylvania.]

Volunteer Gallery Clerk, Green Drake Gallery and Community Art Center, Millheim, PA, 2013-2017.

Counselor Advocate, Centre Country Women's Resource Center, State College, PA, 2010-2017. [Provide emergency crisis counseling on the CCWRC hotline for victims of sexual assault and domestic violence; received 72 hours of training prior to certification as an Advocate.]

Corps Member, AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps, Sacramento, CA; Navajo Mountain, UT; Big Lake, AK; Lummi Island, WA, 2003-2004. [Tutored in Sacramento elementary schools, taught programs for the Boys and Girls Club of Navajo Mountain, constructed low-income housing in the San Juan Islands, and built trails for a library-affiliated nature center in Alaska. As Team Media Coordinator, wrote press releases and worked with local media to inform communities about NCCC work in their regions.]