



COLORED HORSE STUDIOS

b e c a u s e c u l t u r e i s a l w a y s u r g e n t

Theresa Whitehill
poet, letterpress printer

THERESA WHITEHILL, POET

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE & SELECTED CV, UPDATED 24 NOVEMBER 2016



PORTRAIT OF THERESA WHITEHILL, ADRIENNE SIMPSON, 2016

A California poet, designer, and letterpress printer, Theresa Whitehill served as Poet Laureate for the city of Ukiah in northern California's Mendocino County from 2009 through 2011 and has been involved her entire career in production of poetry readings and events. She is well known to Mendocino county audiences as an expressive performer.

In addition to poetry, her literary work includes poetic and travel essays, letterpress broadsides, copywriting, and commissions. She has written and designed a five-volume guide to the estate of Stags' Leap Winery. As Poet-in-Residence at Stags' Leap in 1998, she

participated in a series of salons that became the subject of a CBS Special. *Évora a Doce*, her poem about Portuguese soul and food was published as a limited edition letterpress broadside by Alice Waters in 1999. Whitehill's Flash-animated version of *Évora a Doce* was featured in the American Film Institute's 1998 Annual Report as part of her work with their innovative California Digital Arts Workshop. *Appellation Magazine* has published her poetic prose, and her poetry has appeared in numerous regional California magazines and anthologies.

Since 2000, she has partnered with chef and author Shannon Hughes on culinary poetry events, with Hughes' menus designed around her poetry with themes developed by the duo collaboratively. Their first venture, *The Heart's Invention*, was produced by Hughes in 2000 at her restaurant, Pangaea, in Point Arena. *Saudades* was commissioned as an artistic event by Stags' Leap Winery in the summer of 2003. Pygmy Forest Press published her current book of poetry, *A Grammar of Longing*, in the fall of 2009. She is a co-founder of the Watershed Poetry Mendocino festival, a sibling to the Berkeley Watershed Poetry festival and has been involved in developing a poetry broadside mapping project for that initiative.

Born and raised in California as the third generation of a fruit ranching family, Whitehill studied history of the book and typography at Mills College in the early 1980s, and creative writing at UC Santa Cruz in the late 1970s. She lives in Mendocino County in northern California, where she and her husband, artist Paulo Ferreira, founded Colored Horse Studios, a venue for their literary, artistic, and commercial design work. Their literary letterpress broadsides and her poetry are in the collections of the Getty Museum, the John Hay Library of Brown University, the Bancroft Library at UC Berkeley, Stanford's Special Collections Library, the New York Public Library, the Special Collections Department of UCLA, the San Francisco Public Library, Mills College Special Collections, and City College of San Francisco, as well as many private collections.

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SELECTED CURRICULUM VITAE; RELATED WORK AND ACTIVITIES

- 1977–Present Publication of poetry in California regional publications *Calyx*, *Montserrat Review*, *Oxygen*, *Redwood Coast Review*, *Semi-dwarf Quarterly*, and the anthology *Wood, Water, Air & Fire* from Pot Shard Press
- 1977–Present Performance of poetry in cafes, bars, restaurants, homes, theaters, outdoors, television, and radio
- 1993–Present ***Colored Horse Studios***: Publishing and printing literary letterpress broadsides with artist Paulo Ferreira, also using serigraph, offset lithography, and monoprinting
- 1977–Present Production of poetry readings including publishing a monthly web calendar of poetry events in Mendocino and Lake Counties, hosting regular open readings at Colored Horse Studios, featured poetry reading production, design of literary announcements, flyers, commemorative and occasional posters
- 2015 Strawberry Creek Walk at 20th Annual Watershed Environmental Poetry Festival, Berkeley, poet participant
- 2009 ***A Grammar of Longing***, poetry book, Pygmy Forest Press, November 1, 2009
- 2009–2011 ***Poet Laureate***, Ukiah, California
- 2001–2008 ***Stags' Leap Winery: a Guide to the Estate*** in 5 volumes: a collection devoted to knowledge of Stags' Leap Winery, its history, wines, and culture; the book was designed, written, and produced by Whitehill. In April of 2008 the winery held a reception for the book in the Trustees' Room of the New York Public Library
- 2000–2008 ***Collaborative and Spontaneous Writing***, teaching, workshop, Point Arena Library, February 2008, San Francisco Center for the Book, July 2007 and August 2000
- 2002–2006 Member, Poet Laureate Committee of Ukiah
- October, 2005 ***Liqueur de Poète***: Poetry commission and label design, Germain-Robin Distillers, Ukiah, California
- July, 2004 ***Finding Good Bread***: Poetry commission and letterpress broadside for Sonoma Slow Food and Barn Diva's *A Taste for Art: Celebrating the Artisanal in Food*, in collaboration with baker Della Fattoria of Petaluma, and photographer Meg Dakin; along with nine other teams of food artisans, artists and photographers, culminating in an auction and progressive dinner held Saturday, July 17 at Barn Diva, Healdsburg, California
- August, 2003 ***Saudades***: Culinary poetry collaboration, commission, and performance with chef Shannon Hughes for Stags' Leap Winery, Napa, California; limited edition publication of poems and menu designed by Zida Borcich Letterpress, published in January 2004
- April 10, 2003 ***Ventriloquisms***: Poetry and puppet theater, commission by Grace Hudson Museum, Ukiah, California, as part of their exhibit Puppets of the World and poetry month, with Zida Borcich, poet and puppeteer
- August 2001 ***Because Culture Is Always Urgent***: Poem commissioned by Alice Waters on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of Chez Panisse
- May 2000 ***Toe in the Water***: Poem commissioned by the Mendocino Land Trust upon their 35th Anniversary



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- February 2000 *The Heart's Invention*: Culinary poem commissioned by chef Shannon Hughes for her restaurant, Pangaea, Point Arena, California; performed as a Valentine's feast to the accompaniment of the cooking of Shannon in seven courses of amuse bouche
- August 1999 *Évora a Doce*: Poem published by Alice Waters, designed and printed letterpress by Richard Seibert, in a limited edition broadside to commemorate the life of chef Catherine Brandel
- May/June 1999 "Pangaea," Off the Menu Department, *Appellation Magazine*, Napa, California; profile of chef Shannon Hughes
- January 1999 *Napa Valley: Portrait of a Community*, Catalog of paintings, prose writings, and poems written during Poet-in-Residence at Stags' Leap Winery in the spring of 1998, with opening reception at the Napa Valley Museum, January 1999, and CBS Special in March 1999.
- Jan/Feb 1999 "bio vinifera," Feature Article, *Appellation Magazine*, Napa, California; the story behind the creative project, *Napa Valley: Portrait of a Community*
- Jan/Feb 1998 "Still Life," Feature Article, *Appellation Magazine*, Napa, California; portrait of brandy maker Hubert Germain-Robin
- December 1993 *A Natural History of Mill Towns*, poetry chapbook published by Pygmy Forest Press, Albion, California

EDUCATION

- 10/06–6/07 *Foundation of Poetics*, seminar with Diane DiPrima, in 9 monthly sessions with 6 private sessions
- 11/98 *California Digital Arts Workshop*, American Film Institute, Hollywood, California; studied digital media (Macromedia Flash animation, digital video, digital sound, html coding) for online creative work; Whitehill's project was chosen to be featured in the American Film Institute's annual report
- 9/80–5/82 *Mills College*, Oakland, California; Book Arts, Typography, History of the Book, Creative Writing
- 9/76–6/77 *University of California at Santa Cruz*, Kresge College; Basic Sciences, Spanish, "Birth of a Poet" with William Everson
- 1/76 *Sir Francis Drake High School*, San Anselmo, California, graduated