

Naomi Cohn

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Current/Recent Projects

The Reclamation Project. In progress.

Essays, prose poems, and related drawings exploring birds, urban and other managed ecosystems, and the strange joys of reclaiming relationships with the rest of nature and with art-making as a legally blind person.

Known by Heart—*Better Living Through Poetry.* Since 2015.

Writing workshops and [poetry posters](#) promoting the creativity and voices of older adults and people with disabilities.

Publications

Books:

- *The Braille Encyclopedia*, prose poem memoir, Rose Metal Press, forthcoming (2024)
- *Between Nectar & Eternity*, chapbook, Red Dragonfly Press, 2013

Selected Nonfiction:

- "[Entries from the Braille Encyclopedia](#)" *Baltimore Review*, April 2020, [Best of the Net](#) finalist
- "[In Light of a White Cane](#)" *Terrain.org*, March 2020, Pushcart nominated
- "[In Praise of Poetic Mess](#)" *Poetry Magazine Harriet Blog*, March 19, 2019
- "[Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Black Bird](#)" Finalist, Creative Nonfiction Contest, *Hippocampus Magazine*, November 2016

Selected Individual Poems:

- "[Into the Fire—](#)" *Terrain.org Letter to America*, April 2021
- "[Awl](#)" and "[Cell](#)" *Poetry*, March 2019
- "You Can't Get Back" *Nimrod International Journal*, Fall 2017
- "[Memory of Water, Chicago River](#)" *About Place Journal*, Fall 2013
- "River Effra" and "Jews in Space" *Fourth River*, Fall 2008
- "The Ants' Commentary on Abu Ghraib" *Water~Stone*, Fall 2005

Selected Awards and Residencies

- McKnight Artist Fellowship in Writing, administered by the Loft, 2023
- Monson Arts Residency, Monson, ME, April 2023
- Write On, Door County Residency, Fish Creek, WI, February 2023

Selected Awards and Residencies—more

- Bloedel Reserve Creative Residency, Bainbridge Island, WA, Fall 2022
- Metropolitan Regional Arts Council Arts Impact Grant, October 2021
- Write On, Door County Writing Residency, Fish Creek, WI, Fall 2019
- Minnesota State Arts Board Artist Initiative Grant in Poetry, 2006, 2011, 2018
- St. Paul Knight Arts Challenge Grant, John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, 2015
- Next Step Fund, Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, 2015
- The Studios of Key West Artist Residency, Key West, FL, November 2011
- Edenfred Artist Residency, Madison, WI, February 2010
- Anderson Center Residency, Red Wing, MN, August 2007
- St. Croix Watershed Research Station/ Artist Residency at Pine Needles, Marine on St. Croix, MN, 2005, 2016

Media / Press

On Known by Heart — Writing Home

Park Bugle, Kristal Leebrick, March 21, 2017

[A Window into Poetry](#)

Park Bugle, Kristal Leebrick, March 21, 2017

[Want to Write a Poem?](#)

Knight Foundation Arts Blog, October 5, 2016

[Poetry Helps Older Writers Surprise Themselves](#)

On Memorizing Poetry

Star Tribune, Richard Chin, March 13, 2017

[Why Memorize Pi, Poems When It's All on Your Phone? To Have It in Your Heart](#)

On Teaching in Community

COMPAS Artist Spotlight: July 2016, [Word Whiz, Naomi Cohn](#)

On the Writing Life

Creative Capital Professional Development Program Stories, 2013

[Poet Naomi Cohn on Making More Time for Creativity](#)

On Sidewalk Poetry

Minnesota Public Radio, 2008, [Sidewalks Are for Poets](#)

Weekend America, 2008, [Everyday Sidewalk Poetry](#)

Selected Teaching

- **COMPAS Teaching Artist Roster 2016–present.**
 - Sample sites: Avivo, Abiitan Mill City, Minneapolis, MN; Ebenezer Nine Mile Senior Living, Bloomington; Fraser, multiple locations.
- **Known by Heart—2015–present.**
 - Writing workshops geared toward older adults and people living with disabilities. Partners include Keystone Community Services, Hamline Midway elders, St. Paul Public Library, St. Anthony Park Area Seniors, Seal Hi Rise/St. Paul Public Housing Agency, FilmNorth.
- **Poetry Alive!**, Teaching Artist, Ebenezer–Minneapolis, MN, 2014–2018
- **Yoga and Writing Retreat**, half-day, Embodied Health, St. Paul, MN, July 2016
- **Teen Voices**, Guest Teaching Artist, Workshop, Winona, MN, 2015
- **Memory Matters, Poetry, Memory & Performance**, with Zaraawar Mistry, Dreamland Arts, St. Paul, MN, 2015
- **Healing Nature of Art**, co-leader, 8-week art therapy group, Neighborhood Involvement Program, Minneapolis, MN, 2014
- **Strategy Direction Workshop for Artists**, Studios of Key West, FL, 2011

Selected Presentations

- **Known by Heart / Friends of the St. Paul Public Library Poetry Performances**, Curator and Performer, St. Paul Public Library locations, 2012, 2013, 2016, 2017, 2018. Featured poet-performers: Zoe Bird, Sharon Chmielarz, Donte Collins, Heid E. Erdrich, Margaret Hasse, Andrea Jenkins, Patricia Kirkpatrick, Ed Bok Lee, John Minczeski, David Mura.
- **Other Readings, (2003–Present):**
 - Banfill-Locke Center for the Arts, Fridley, MN, 2003, 2014, 2021
 - Birchbark Books, Minneapolis, MN, 2016
 - Local Motion, Loft Literary Center, Minneapolis, MN, 2003
 - Micawber’s Bookstore, St. Paul, MN, 2011, 2015
 - Midstream Reading Series, Minneapolis, MN, 2014, 2018

Education and Training

Saint Mary’s University, Minneapolis, MN
Master of Arts, Marriage and Family Therapy, August 2014

Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. B.A., summa cum laude, College Scholar, Biology, History of Science and Art. Phi Beta Kappa. 1984.

Education and Training—more

Recent Writing Coursework

- J. Drew Lanham, *Eco-Memoir*, Creative Nonfiction, 2021, Minnesota Northwoods Writers Conference, online
- Joanna Cooper, *Approaching Mystery: Flash Nonfiction*, 2021, Creative Nonfiction Magazine, online
- James Polchin, *The Space Between: Writing about Photographs*, 2020, Creative Nonfiction Magazine, online
- Sarah Einstein, *Gentle Essaying*, 2019, Iota Online
- Jennifer Lunden, *Writing Social Justice*, 2018, Iota Online
- Penny Guisinger, *Revising Your Creative Prose*, 2018, Iota Online
- Paisley Rekdal, *Creative Nonfiction*, 2018, Minnesota Northwoods Writers Conference
- Heather Slomski, *Art of the Sentence*, 2018, Loft Literary Center, online
- Rochelle Hurt, *Flash Prose*, Summer 2016, Loft Literary Center, online
- Rebecca Brown, *Creative Nonfiction*, 2016, Minnesota Northwoods Writers Conference