

ARIANA & ALAN : THE KINDRED TOUR, 2021

a digital tour dedicated to Black healing & queer kinship

PERFORMANCES WITH LIVE DIALOGUE

- 1 Hour Dual Performance and 30 Minute Live Dialogue
- *Live Performances* must take place as Zoom webinars or through StreamYard.

Ariana Brown and Alan Pelaez Lopez's debut poetry collections were released in 2020 amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. This performance showcases Brown's *Sana Sana* and Pelaez Lopez's *to love and mourn in the age of displacement* and *Intergalactic Travels: poems from a fugitive alien*. This tour echoes Brown's sentiment, "I have never needed heaven, just Black people," and Pelaez Lopez's notion that "we create abundance where we thought there was none." Following the performance, both poets will engage in a live dialogue about what it means to address the need for community care in order to propel into Black futures.

ARTIST TALKS

- 30-40 Minute Individual Artist Talk and 20-30 Minute Live Dialogue
- *Artist Talks* Must take place as Zoom webinars or through StreamYard.

Art as Civil Disobedience: Blackness, migration, and criminality (Alan)

What does it mean to write poetry when you can be criminalized, incarcerated and deported at any moment? This is the reality for many undocumented, refugee, asylee, and migrant creators. This art talk centers Alan Pelaez Lopez's relationship to poetry as a refugee in which to process state-violence, but also a place of contestation because if the artist says too much, their family and friends can also become targets of the state. Ethical cultural production will be at the heart of this art talk as a way to de-center productivity, a measure that is by default anti-black and anti-migrant.

Taking Care of Black Girls When the World Won't (Ariana)

In this artist talk, Ariana Brown describes finding her way to poetry in 2009 and using it as a tool for personal and communal care. Ariana will contextualize her work within Black performance traditions and rituals, particularly in local slam poetry communities in Texas. Drawing on her lived experience as a queer Black Mexican American and her research in African Diaspora Studies and Mexican American Studies, Ariana will trace her attempts to recover Black girlhood not just for herself, but for other Black girls too. Combining storytelling, poems, and dialogue, this artist talk is an opportunity to hear from Ariana directly about how her identities and politics shape her writing.

WRITING WORKSHOPS

- 1 Hour, 30 Minute Workshops, co-facilitated by Alan & Ariana
- *Workshops* must take place as a Zoom meetings.

Visions for the Future: Writing the Worlds We Want to Live in

This workshop takes up pre- and post-apocalyptic poetics. As a community of writers, we will address the following questions: What was life before the apocalypse? What do we deserve as a people in order to propel into safe and healing futures? And what is easy in the future that was terrifying in 2020?

Gender, Sexuality, Freedom

Gender and sexuality inform not only how we see ourselves, but how we experience the world. In this workshop, we explore how gender and sexual orientation affect our relationships to power and freedom.

Beauty & Black Hair

There is such beauty, uniqueness, and possibility in Blackness. In this workshop, designed for all Black participants, we will talk about our relationships to Black hair. Since we come in many textures, we will talk about how our hair is perceived by ourselves and others, who taught us about our hair, and all the joys and pain associated with it. We will use writing prompts and group dialogue to build community with one another and affirm our unique experiences as Black folks.