

Dave Seter
Petaluma, CA
<https://daveseter.com/>

writing curriculum vitae December 2025

EDUCATION

- MA in Humanities, Dominican University of California, 2018
 - Master's Thesis [Link](#)
- BS, Civil Engineering, Princeton University, 1982

PUBLISHED CREATIVE WORKS

- *Somewhere West of the Mississippi*, chapbook, Mammoth Publications, 2025.
 - [Link to publisher's website](#)
- *Don't Sing to Me of Electric Fences*, full-length poetry collection, Cherry Grove Collections, 2021.
 - [Video / reading from the book at Rivertown Poets](#)
- *Night Duty*, chapbook, Main Street Rag, 2010.
- Individual poems have been published in various journals including: Appalachia; The Hopper; Paterson Literary Review; Raven Chronicles; West Marin Review; and others. Two poems received Pushcart nominations.
- English translations of (3) poems from the Lithuanian by Alma Riebzdaite [Link](#)
- English translation of (1) poem from the Lithuanian by Patricija Gudeikaite [Link](#)
- English translations of (3) poems from the Lithuanian by Alina Borzenkaite [Link](#)

SELECT PUBLISHED ACADEMIC / CRITICAL WORKS

- "Three Doors to Survival: Invitation to a Garden Party," *Palaver* (2015).
- "Moldenke, the Magic Rat, and Postmodern Pain," *Confluence* (2015) (a publication of the Association of Graduate Liberal Studies Programs).
- "Brian Kent's Reflection in Eudora Welty's 'Moon Lake,'" *Western Tributaries* Vol. 2 (2015). Presented at the West Coast Graduate Liberal Studies Symposium at Reed College in June 2015. [Link](#)
- "Exploring Sexual Identity in Eudora Welty's 'Moon Lake,'" *Valley Voices* Vol. 16 No. 2 (Fall 2016) (a publ. of Mississippi Valley State University).
- "There Were No Seagulls: Cultural Challenges of Poetry in Translation." *Exchanges: Journal of Literary Translation*. First published May 5, 2025. [Link](#)

SELECT PUBLISHED POEMS ONLINE

- "White Tailed Kite," *Cumberland River Review* (2013) [Link](#)
- "Language of Chemicals and Probable Cause," *Abandoned Mine* (2022) [Link](#)
- "Weightless Hitchhiker," *The Big Windows Review* (April 2024) [Link](#)
- (3) Poems, *LAdige Review* (2025). [Link](#)

SELECT PUBLISHED PROSE ONLINE

- "Bird Strikes Began with Orville Wright," *The Museum of Americana: A Literary Review*, Issue 32 / Winter 2024. [Link](#)

- “My Brief Soccer Career,” MORIA, Issue 12 / December 2023. [Link](#)
- “Thinking Like a Mountain: Celebrating the Centennial of ‘An Octopus of Ice.’” Poetry Northwest (online). September 3, 2024. [Link](#)

SELECT PUBLISHED BOOK REVIEWS ONLINE

- Spencer Reece’s *The Road to Emmaus*, CPR (2015). [Link](#)
- Ada Limon’s *Bright Dead Things*, CPR (2016). [Link](#)
- Amanda Moore’s *Requeening*, CPR (2022). [Link](#)
- Brenda Hillman’s *In a Few Minutes Before Later*, CPR (2023) [Link](#)
- Wago Ryoichi’s *Since Fukushima*, Tupelo Quarterly (2023) [Link](#)
- Ardengo Soffici’s *Simultaneities and Lyric Chemisms*, Poetry Flash (2023) [Link](#)
- Emilie Lygren’s *What We Were Born For*, Poetry Flash (2024) [Link](#)
- Denise Low’s *House of Grace House of Blood*, Tupelo Quarterly (2025) [Link](#)

AWARDS AND OTHER RECOGNITION

- Affiliate Artist, Headlands Center for the Arts, June 2004 – November 2005.
- “Pacific Ocean Oil Spill Suite” won the 2009 *Knock Magazine* Ecolit Prize.
- “Windows” was nominated by *Raven Chronicles* for a Pushcart Prize in 2010.
- Recipient of a Poets & Writers grant with William Keener to conduct a public reading and workshop at College of the Redwoods, Crescent City, CA, Feb. 2010.
- “Open Window, Katoomba” was nominated by *Raven Chronicles* for a Pushcart Prize in 2012.
- “What My Uncle Is Trying to Say” was awarded third place in the William Matthews Prize competition sponsored by *Asheville Poetry Review* (2014).
- Recipient of a Graduate Humanities Fellowship from Dominican University of California (Spring 2015).
- Featured reader at the Petaluma Poetry Walk, September 2016.
- Recipient of the John and Diana Harrington Award as Outstanding Graduate, MA in Humanities Program, Dominican University of California, 2018.
- Emceed Marin Poetry Center’s ecopoetry reading California Ecopoetry: Loss and Resilience, online, June 3, 2021.
- Guest speaker at January 2022 Winter Residency for the Dominican University of California MFA in Creative Writing Program.
- Panelist, First Books Panel, Napa Valley Writers Conference (July 2022)
- Featured reader, Strawberry Creek Walk, 2023 Watershed Environmental Poetry Festival. [Link](#)
- Named Sonoma County Poet Laureate 2024-2026
- Opened the Trashlantis Festival (Sebastopol) with my poem “King Kong Versus Styrofoam Cup” Sept. 2024
- Featured reader at Café Frida Poetry Series (Santa Rosa) Sept. 2024
- Featured reader at the Petaluma Poetry Walk, September 2025.
- Featured reader at the Rivertown Poets Reading Series (Petaluma) Feb. 2025. [Video / Feb 2025 at Rivertown Poets](#)
- Guest at the Resilient Earth Radio podcast on KGUA (Gualala) Feb. 2025 [Link to podcast recording](#)

- Judge / Sonoma County Poetry Out Loud / Feb. 2025
- Featured reader at Independent Book Store Day / Poet's Corner Book Shop, Duncan's Mills / April 2025
- Featured reader at Barrel Proof Lounge Poetry Series (Santa Rosa) May 2025
[Video Link](#)
- Featured reader / Mammoth Publications event / Ciao Bruto (Healdsburg) June 2025
- Judge / Sonoma County Fair Poetry Competition / July 2025
- Occasional Poem Written and Delivered at the Reopening of the Petaluma Library / August 2025
- Featured reader at Petaluma Poetry Walk Sept. 2025
- Host / Poetry of Remembrance / Petaluma Historical Museum / Oct. 2025
- Featured Guest at Sonoma Land Trust event at which I read my poem "Baylands" about the Land Trust's Sears Point Wetlands Restoration Project / Nov. 2025
- Cast Member for a reading of Dylan Thomas' "A Child's Christmas in Wales". Barrel Proof Lounge (Santa Rosa) Dec. 2025

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Taught a half-day nature writing workshop at Glen Oaks Ranch, Sonoma, CA, sponsored by the Sonoma Land Trust in June 2016.
- Guest taught a session of the undergraduate course Big History / Creative Writing at Dominican University of California on the topic of eco-poetry in April 2018.
- Led outdoor session on The Transformative Power of Nature (based on the work of 17th C. Japanese poet Basho) as part of the June 2021 Summer Residency for the Dominican University of California MFA in Creative Writing Program.
- Presented on the topic Witness and Context as member of a panel on Devastation and Recovery at the Summer 2024 DUC MFA Residency
- Led the workshop "Dusty Artifact or Window Into the Past? Writing Poems About Sonoma County History." Museum of Sonoma County, Jan. 2025.
- Spring 2025: led a series of three Poetry Challenge workshops at the Sebastopol Center for the Arts on the topics of Abstraction through Form; Documentary Poetry; and Incorporating Found Text in Poetry
- Collaborated with the Sonoma County History and Genealogy Library on a generative writing workshop "Uncovering Sonoma County's History Through Poetry" (April 2025)
- Led a generative writing workshop on "Zoka Nature Writing" at The 222 (Healdsburg, CA) (August 2025) [Video](#)

WRITING CONFERENCES ATTENDED

- Art of the Wild (Poetry) 1999
- Community of Writers (Poetry) 2003
- Napa Valley Writers Conference (Poetry) 2005, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2023
- Bear River Writers Conference (Poetry) 2006
- Napa Valley Writers Conference (Poetry in Translation) 2022, 2024

PROFESSIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- 1993-2019 Environmental Engineer / United States Environmental Protection Agency (San Francisco)
 - Developed creative cleanup solutions at Superfund Sites, primarily copper mining legacy sites in Nevada, including Anaconda and Rio Tinto.
 - Member of team awarded EPA's Silver Medal for Achievement in recognition of the multi-party legal settlement and cleanup at the Rio Tinto Mine Site, including steps toward restoration of a tribal fishery.
- 1987-1993 Environmental Engineer / United States Environmental Protection Agency (Philadelphia)
 - Developed creative solutions to drinking water contamination incidents under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Negotiated with local industry to remove industrial solvents from the wellfield of the town of Vanport, PA.
- 1984-1987 Environmental Engineer / N.J. Department of Environmental Protection (Trenton, NJ)
- 1982-1984 Field Engineer / Public Service Electric and Gas Company (Jersey City, NJ)

VOLUNTEER / SERVICE EXPERIENCE

- Delaware Chapter Sierra Club / Reviewed and commented on water resources projects and policies under development by the State of Delaware (1992-3)
- National Park Service, Golden Gate National Recreation Area / Member of a spotted owl monitoring team under direction of a field biologist (1996)
- River of Words (a program encouraging ecological literacy among youth) / Assisted at public and educational events (2009-10)
- Petaluma Arts Center / Assisted with community events (2012-4)
- Marin Poetry Center / Assistant to events coordinator (2013)
- Provided support at Writers for Migrant Justice event held at Dominican University of California on September 4, 2019
- Marin Poetry Center / Member of the Board (Social Media Director) (April 2020-August 2021)
- Petaluma Poetry Walk / Member of Organizing Committee (2023-2024)
- Served as Sonoma County Poet Laureate 2024-2026, volunteering my time to conduct readings and workshops throughout the county.