



Lina Ramona Vitkauskas

(Canadian-American-Lithuanian, b.1973)

A self-described “evaporating language photographer”, Lina Ramona is an award-winning videopoet / poet whose videopoems—and/or visual art derived from her videopoems—have placed in the following international video poetry festivals or have been featured at:

MOCA Toronto

Part of Jeffrey Gibson's public installation/archive, *I AM YOUR RELATIVE*

Ontario College of Art & Design

Private Lives exhibit

Khôra

Collaboration, Lidia Yuknavitch's Corporeal Writing

Pamenar Press (UK)

Festival Fotogenia (Mexico City)

Collection of videopoems, based upon chapbook, *White Stockings* (2015-2019) / collaboration with visual artist, Tess Cortés

Phonothèque: Nature & Culture Video Poem Festival (Denmark)

Stanford University | Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies Conference (2018)

Collection of videopoems, based upon chapbook, *White Stockings* (2015-2019) / collaboration with visual artist, Tess Cortés

Boston Cyberarts Gallery (Collaboration, AR visual artist, Michael Lewy)

Chicago Filmmakers

Collection of videopoems, based upon chapbook, *White Stockings* (2015-2019) / collaboration with visual artist, Tess Cortés

International Migration & Environmental Film Festival (Canada)

Ex-Puritan (Canada)

Vienna Poetry Film Festival

Newlyn Film Festival (UK)

Paper Knives

Curated by Nicholas Ravinkar

International Video Poetry Festival (Greece)

Art-Lit-Lab's Midwest Video Poetry Festival (Madison, WI, US)

Cadence Video Poetry Film Festival (Seattle, US)

Moving Poems

Mutable Sound

Ready Freddy Film Festival (Chicago, IL, US)

Collection of videopoems, based upon chapbook, *White Stockings* (2015-2019) / collaboration with visual artist, Tess Cortés

League of Canadian Poets New Members Reading

Collection of videopoems, based upon chapbook, *White Stockings* (2015-2019) / collaboration with visual artist, Tess Cortés

Ex-Puritan Inaugural Public Reading

Collection of videopoems, based upon chapbook, *White Stockings* (2015-2019) / collaboration with visual artist, Tess Cortés

She is the author of the following poetry books / chapbooks:

Lines of Demarcation

(JackPine Press, 2022)

Between Plague & Kleptocracy: Invented Poetic Creations & Conversations of Seva & Bill

(Secret Airplanes Press, 2021)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA)

(Secret Airplanes Press, 2018)

White Stockings

(White Hole Press, 2016)

SPINY RETINAS

(Mutable Sound, 2014)

Professional Poetry

(White Hole Press, 2013)

A Neon Tryst

(Shearsman Books, 2013)

HONEY IS A SHE

(Plastique Press, e-book, 2012)

THE RANGE OF YOUR AMAZING NOTHING

(Ravenna Press, 2010) – Out of print

Failed Star Spawns Planet/Star

(dancing girl press, 2006) – Out of print

Shooting Dead Films with Poets

(Fractal Edge Press, 2004) – Out of print

She has won the following awards / has been featured in:

2020

PEN America Relief Grant recipient

2019

- Essay featured in *Message Ahead: Poets Respond to the Poems of Jonas Mekas* (Rail Editions – Brooklyn Rail), anthology dedicated to poetry of Lithuanian filmmaker and Anthology Film Archives founder, Jonas Mekas
- Voice-over narration for independent documentary film, *George: The Story of George Mačiunas & Fluxus* (Director: Jeffrey Perkins); featuring Yoko Ono, Vyt Bakaitis, and others; screened at MoMA, Amsterdam, London, Vilnius
- Nominated by Spoon River Poetry Review, Illinois Arts Council Award – Poetry

2018

Participant, inaugural World Lithuanian Writers' Forum, featured in forum anthology

Presented by the Lithuanian World Community Organization, the Lithuanian Writers' Union, and the Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore

2013

Henry Miller Memorial Library Ping Pong Journal Award

Selected by Eleni Sikelianos

2009

▪ The Poetry Center of Chicago's Juried Reading Award

Selected by Brenda Hillman

▪ Nominated, *Another Chicago Magazine*, Illinois Arts Council Award – Short Fiction

2000

▪ M.A., Creative Writing, Wright State University

▪ Participated in summer workshop with Nikky Finney, 2012 National Book Award Winner – Poetry

Lina Ramona has served as:

- Chicago Poetry Correspondent for OmniVerse
- Faculty member & marketing manager for the Chicago School of Poetics (2008)
- Co-editor/designer, **milk magazine**, the 20+ year-running online literary magazine
Featuring Robert Creeley, Wanda Coleman, Ron Padgett, Michael McClure, and Japanese surrealist, Yamamoto Kansuke, among others
- 15+ year reader, co-curator, collaborator, co-founder, organizer/facilitator, contest judge, and instructor in Chicago's poetry community

Featured in the following Chicago-based reading series and projects:

- Balzekas Lithuanian Museum
- Woman Made Gallery
- Chicago Public Radio: "Chicago Amplified" & "Future Perfect + New Media"
- Myopic Books
- Quimby's
- Danny's Reading Series
- Red Rover @ OUTER SPACE
- Series A
- Wit Rabbit
- Dollhouse Reading Series
- 100K Poets for Change
- HUMAN MICROPOEM at Occupy Chicago
- Discrete Reading Series (University of Chicago-affiliated)
- Around the Coyote
- Evanston Public Library

She is currently the co-curator of the **milk magazine reading series in Toronto** at Type Books with her partner, Larry Sawyer.

Publications

Vilnius Review

The Prague Literary Review

White Fungus (Taiwan)

Ping Pong (Henry Miller Literary Journal)

The Chicago Review

Khôra

Pamenar Press Magazine (UK)

The Ex-Puritan

VLAK (Ed. Louis Armand, Edmund Berrigan)

Berfrois

Resist Much / Obey Little (Spuyten Duyvil, 2017)

Rain Taxi

VIDA

Dusie

Tarpaulin Sky

Rampike (Volume 14:1; University of Windsor)

The Toronto Quarterly

Echolocation (University of Toronto)

Yalla (Montreal)

Another Chicago Magazine (#48)

Emergency Index (Ugly Duckling Presse, 2012)

Aufgabe

Van Gogh's Ear (Paris)

Paper Tiger (Australia)

Atticus Review

Matter

Mystic Owl

Schlag

Deathcap (Coven Editions)

the tiny

Shock of Femme

Human Repair Kit

Cosmonauts Avenue

The Conversant

New City

Big Bridge

The Awl

The City Visible: Chicago Poetry for the New Century (Cracked Slab Books, 2007)

POETBOOK

Spork

Coconut

TriQuarterly (Northwestern University)

Requited

DIAGRAM

Delirious Hem (Chick Flix Series, Ed. Jennifer L. Knox)

Sharkforum (2006, 2010)

RHINO

Delirious Hem (2011 Audio Advent Calendar, Ed. Susanna Gardner, dusie)

MiPoesias

Moria

In Posse Review Multi-Ethnic Anthology (Ed. Ilya Kaminsky)

Bridges – The Lithuanian-American Journal

After Hours

Ariel

Balloon

Blossombones

Jet Fuel Review

Fifth Wednesday Journal

ink & ashes

Ambulant

Anemone Sidecar

Drunken Boat

Aught

LocusPoint

5-Trope

canwehaveourballback?

Cokefish

3 A.M.

Hubris

JACK

La Petite Zine

Melancholia's Tremulous Dreadlocks

Newtopia

No Tell Motel (1, 2, 3, 4)

The Onion Union

The Outlet

Shampoo

PFS Post

Seven Corners

Sidereality

Snow Monkey

Starfish

Unpleasant Event Schedule (Ed. Daniel Nester)

Tin Lustre Mobile

ZuZu's Petals

UniVerse: A United Nations of Poetry (Translator)

Blurbs

"...the world of Vitkauskas' poems is one where beef takes nebulous forms, Jacques Derrida and Batman speculatively coincide, where cumin forms into fists, where Auden sets things on fire, and Sartre cowboys ride into a present tense that combines *The Handmaid's Tale* with mad science with the meaningful meaningless dialogue of politics and propaganda. While her poems are filled with wild images, they are also subtle in their devious shifts and proclamations. The dream capsules of 'amazing nothings' of this book are, to paraphrase Wallace Stevens, both there and not there. These poems are fun, soothingly frantic, and optimistically generous."
— **Daniel Borzutzky, Griffin Poetry Prize (International Shortlist, 2019) & US National Book Award Winner**

"Splendid, grotesque, violent, but always loving, Vitkauskas writes like a contemporary Marina Tsvetaeva through a landscape of the uncertain and surreal; the language is made from the nervousness and energy of every bee in the hive. Part 'rotten aorta' and part 'snapdragon wine', the poems in *HONEY IS A SHE* form a buzzing network of inventive beauty."

— **Sandra Simonds, author of *Assia* (Noemi Press) & *Triptychs* (Wave Books); Winner of the Akron Poetry Prize**

"You've discovered / invented a unique new kind of mode in the cinepoem genre — bravo...your method in writing the 'film ekphrastics' is unique, innovative, and I've never read of anyone else doing it before you..."

— **Bill Knott, Winner of the Iowa Poetry Prize; author of *The Naomi Poems* (1968)**

"If film is linear, the ultimate time-based medium, during which we are supposed to listen and watch attentively, passively, Vitkauskas' poems talk back. These poems create simultaneity, layers, and distillations toward new narrative logics...Vitkauskas is watching for the poem in the film, writing her own, deliciously peculiar subtitles and in their irreverence, they are expansive, wise, and sometimes very funny. Her playful gestures in the face of the tightly choreographed imprint of film create incidental and embodied new texts, and this may very well be a feminist enterprise in its daring, toppling film's male gaze with 'I have to half you.' "

— **Jill Magi, author of *LABOR* (Nightboat Books) & *SIGN CLIMACTERIC* (Hostile Books)**

"The 'trysts' of Vitkauskas' book are shot through with 'neon'...saturated with chemicals, textures, atmosphere, and media. According to this synthetic cosmology, 'In an affair/ arms laugh, /they become sheer'...arms, bodies, weapons, trysts—become both medium and adjective, both see-through and material. As in Antonioni's great films, the body is clothes and the clothes are part of the visual atmosphere. A dress moves through a toxic landscape, and the 'trysts' are movies, fantasies, art. Vitkauskas is 'surreal, primitive, impressionist, whatever.' "

— **Johannes Göransson, author of *The Sugar Book* (Tarpaulin Sky); co-editor, Action Books / Action, Yes**

"...her poems possess the intricate peculiarity of honeycombs and Schiaparelli dresses...she exquisitely fashions verse out of scientific particulars, cinematic references, and metaphors' associative logic. Vitkauskas is fearless as she navigates, interrogates, and ultimately, dislocates conventional gender dynamics: 'I rip the itch from gender.' The dynamism, humor, and marvel of her poems recall the surrealist Joyce Mansour, conveying a similar tenor as they negotiate desire and disease, ardor and animosity..."

— **Simone Muench, *Suture* (Black Lawrence Press); Illinois Arts Council Finalist**

"...richly textured and layered, a palimpsest pleasure...Ashbery and Superman, Lorca and Jacqueline Bisset, Nancy (the comic strip character) and Forrest Gander all coexist and inform her amazing verse. While the bright surface of her poetry employs humor and kitsch, the dazzling underside confronts intolerance and terrorism with a wise brilliance."

— **Denise Duhamel, Guest Editor, Best American Poetry**

"...a Cyrillic voyeur penning captions for a movie that knows its own democracy...a run of great poems made by great lines, a sequence of gracious acts in which Vitkauskas drops names like Galileo dropped the orange..."

— **Chuck Stebelton, Winner, Tougher Disguises Jack Spicer Award**