

Sky O'Brien (he/him)

Writer

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Inventive fiction writer with an eye for relationships between image, sound, and text on the physical or digital page. Maintains a daily reading practice with interest in wordplay and experimental forms in (English translations of) postmodern French literature and contemporary Australian literature. Proficient in teaching and performing contemporary fiction, poetry, and hybrid forms of writing in a university classroom setting. Lively lecturer with experience instructing undergraduates in English literature and the craft of creative writing.

Work History

- **Aug 2022 - Current**

VISITING PROFESSOR

Principia College, Elsah, IL

- Teaching WRIT 120 and WRIT 141 in Fall 2022
- Teaching ENGL 202, ENGL 239, and ENGL 291 in Spring 2023

- **Mar 2020 - Current**

DEPUTY EDITOR

Dispatches Magazine, Berkeley, CA

- Collaborate with writers and editors to determine readiness of written pieces, suggest edits, and approve final versions for publication
- Support the managing editor and designer with layouts and features
- Pitch content strategies and search for writers whose fiction and poetry I like to read. For example, acquired new poetry by sam sax for Issue 3

- **Mar 2022 - Jun 2022**

GRADER

University of Washington, Bothell, WA

- Assisted Prof. Ted Hiebert in *BIS 132: Introduction to Photography* (87 students)
- Helped maintain a positive, process-oriented online learning environment
- Studied the work of artists and writers in the course and how their artistic practices informed Prof. Hiebert's learning outcomes
- Assessed and graded student assignments

- **Aug 2021 - Mar 2022**

PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Activities and Recreation Center, Bothell, WA

- Assisted the Program Manager of Fitness with training and scheduling student employees to work as fitness center attendants
- Helped plan, coordinate, and schedule fitness programming and events

- **Sep 2019 - Dec 2019**

INTERN

California Institute Of Community, Art And Nature, Berkeley, CA

- Assisted the Executive Director with writing emails, planning events and drafting event invitations, transcribing oral histories, and researching material for an anthology of writings about Berkeley

- **Aug 2018 - May 2019**

POST GRAD TEACHING INTERN

Principia College, Elmhurst, IL

- Assisted professors in the English department and creative writing track with course instruction and administrative tasks in the following:
 - *ENGL 234: The Language of Film* (Prof. Dinah Ryan, Fall 2018, 12 students): designed and gave a lecture on the interaction between textual minimalism and magical realism in Alejandro González Iñárritu's film *Birdman*
 - *ENGL 253: Gender Studies in Literature* (Prof. Ryan, Fall 2018, 10 students): helped lesson plan for fictional key texts by Eugenides, Woolf, and Erdrich
 - *ENGL 351: Adv. Creative Writing Seminar* (Prof. Ryan, Fall 2018, 14 students)
 - *ENGL 241: Fiction Writing II* (Prof. Sara McDaniel, Fall 2018, 10 students)
 - *ENGL 388: Literature and Critical Theory* (Prof. Ryan, Spring 2019, 6 students)
- Held office hours to mentor students, answer questions, and discuss course content

Education

- **Aug 2020 - Jun 2022**

MASTER OF FINE ARTS: CREATIVE WRITING AND POETICS

University of Washington, Bothell, WA

- Thesis: *Beginners: Or, The First Voyage of Discovery*
- Awarded MFA Community Catalyst Award
- Published in *Clamor Journal 2022*; *Hex Enduction Quarterly Issue 2* and *Issue 6*; *Dispatches Magazine*; *Mistake House Magazine Issue 7*
- Fiction readings at Underbelly and Damn the Weather in Seattle
- Forthcoming essay in *Artworks for Jellyfish*, eds. Ted Hiebert & Amanda Boetzkes

- **Aug 2015 - May 2018**

BACHELOR OF ARTS: ENGLISH: CREATIVE WRITING

Principia College, Elmhurst, IL

- Member of Phi Alpha Eta
- Editor-in-chief: *Mistake House Magazine*
- Member of Friendship Around the World and Sustainability Club
- William H. Selmeier Literary Award & Special Merit Award for Student Publications

Interests

- Contemporary modes of historical fiction
- Surrealist and Dadaist approaches to creative writing
- American land art from the 1960s and 1970s

Publications

- **Essays**

- "Dreams of Iron" forthcoming in *Artworks for Jellyfish* edited by Ted Hiebert and Amanda Boetzkes, 2022
- "The Art of War" in *Dispatches Magazine*, 10 May 2022
- "The Gift That Keeps on Giving" in *Dispatches Magazine*, 20 December 2021
- "Lost, Damned and Confused" in *Dispatches Magazine*, 18 July 2021
- "We're Not Done Yet" in *Dispatches Magazine*, 12 May 2021
- "Vigil in Perth" in *Dispatches Magazine*, 10 November 2020

- **Poetry**

- "Forest dream" and "Edge of the Forest" in *Clamor* 2022 Issue
- "Four poems" in *Hex Enduction Quarterly* Summer 2021
- "Harold, a young accountant" in High Shelf Press online, March 2019

- **Fiction**

- *Beginners: Or, The First Voyage of Discovery* (MFA Thesis), June 2022
- "Three pieces from a fiction in progress" in *Hex Enduction Quarterly* Spring 2022
- "Shoes in the Suburbs" in *Puerto del Sol* online, June 2019
- "The Union" in *NonBinary Review* online, April 2019
- "Harry's Bird" in *Drunk Monkeys* online, Feb 2019
- "Engineers" in Principia College Creative Writing Contest 2018 (1st place)
- "Appliance" in Principia College Creative Writing Contest 2016 (2nd place)
- "65 Inches Wide and 37 Inches High" in *Mistake House* online, May 2017
- "Escaping Reality" in Armadale Young Writers' Award, 2011 (1st place)

Art exhibits

- Schmidt Gallery, Principia College 2018
 - Exhibited work in the inaugural "Juried Student Exhibition," receiving two honorable mentions
- Radford Gallery, Principia College 2017
 - Exhibited artworks in "Thirteen Ways of Looking at Prague" and "Radford Pop-Up Exhibition"
- Art Gallery of Western Australia 2014
 - "Give Us This Day Our Daily Facebook" included in the annual *Perspectives* exhibition

Film screenings

- Grand Illusion Cinema, Seattle 2022
 - “all leisure no work” co-produced with Eric Acosta
- Cox Auditorium, Principia College Film Festival 2016
 - “I am wood” (awarded best cinematography)

References

- Ted Hiebert, Prof. of Interdisciplinary Art, University of Washington: thiebert@uw.edu
- Dinah Ryan, Prof. of English, Principia College: dinah.ryan@principia.edu
- David Reid, Editor-in-Chief, *Dispatches Magazine*: davidgreid12@gmail.com
- Jessica Elsaid, Program Manager, Activities and Recreation Center: jelsaid@uw.edu