

**FY2012
Poetry
Panelist Biographies**

Jeanne Marie Beaumont

Jeanne Marie Beaumont grew up in the Philadelphia area and moved to New York City in 1983. She holds an M.F.A. in Writing from Columbia University and is the author of three books of poetry. Her first, *Placebo Effects*, was selected by William Matthews as a winner in the National Poetry Series and published by W.W. Norton in 1997. Her second collection of poems, *Curious Conduct*, was published by BOA Editions, Ltd. in 2004, and her third collection, *Burning of the Three Fires*, also from BOA, was published in the fall of 2010. With Claudia Carlson, she co-edited the anthology *The Poets' Grimm: Twentieth Century Poems from Grimm Fairy Tales* (Story Line Press, 2003).

Her poems have been included in two dozen anthologies and textbooks, among them *Good Poems for Hard Times*, *Poetry Daily: 366 Poems from the World's Most Popular Poetry Website*, *When She Named Fire: An Anthology of Contemporary Poetry by American Women*, *The Year's Best Fantasy & Horror, 20th ed.*, *The Norton Introduction to Literature, 9th ed.*, and *Don't Leave Hungry: 50 Years of Southern Poetry Review*. Journals in which her work has appeared include *Boston Review*, *Barrow Street*, *Conduit*, *Court Green*, *Denver Quarterly*, *Harper's*, *Manhattan Review*, *The Nation*, *New American Writing*, *Poetry Northwest*, and *World Literature Today*, among many others. She won the 2009 Dana Award for Poetry, and also *The Greensboro Review* literary award for poetry in 2003. From 1992 to 2000, she was co-editor of the literary magazine *American Letters & Commentary*.

A poem from *Curious Conduct*, "Afraid So," was made into a short film of the same name by award-winning filmmaker Jay Rosenblatt; it has been screened at numerous international film festivals since 2006 and on IFC. She has studied bookbinding at the Center for Book Arts, where she curated readings for its Broadsides Reading Series. She previously taught at Rutgers University and at The Frost Place, where she served as director of the annual Advanced Poetry Seminar (2006-2010). She currently teaches at The Unterberg Poetry Center of the 92nd Street Y in Manhattan and in the Stonecoast M.F.A. Program at the University of Southern Maine.

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Camille Dungy

Camille Dungy is author of *Smith Blue* (Southern Illinois University Press, 2011), winner of the 2010 Crab Orchard Open Book Prize, *Suck on the Marrow* (Red Hen Press, 2010), and *What to Eat, What to Drink, What to Leave for Poison* (Red Hen Press, 2006).

She is the editor of *Black Nature: Four Centuries of African American Nature Poetry* (UGA, 2009), co-editor of *From the Fishhouse: An Anthology of Poems that Sing, Rhyme, Resound, Syncopate, Alliterate, and Just Plain Sound Great* (Persea, 2009), and assistant editor of *Gathering Ground: A Reader Celebrating Cave Canem's First Decade* (University of Michigan Press, 2006). Dungy has received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Virginia Commission for the Arts, Cave Canem, the Dana Award, and Bread Loaf.

She is a two-time recipient of the Northern California Book Award (2010 and 2011), a Silver Medal Winner in the California Book Award (2011), and a two-time NAACP Image Award nominee (2010 and 2011). She was a 2011 finalist for the Balcones Prize, and her books have been shortlisted for the 2011 Foreword Magazine Book of the Year Award, the PEN Center USA 2007 Literary Award, and the Library of Virginia 2007 Literary Award. Dungy is currently a Professor in the Creative Writing Department at San Francisco State University. Her poems and essays have been published widely in anthologies and print and online journals.

Ravi Shankar

Ravi Shankar, newly elected Chairman of the CT Young Writers Trust, is co-Director of the Creative Writing Program at Central Connecticut State University and the founding editor of the international online journal of the arts, *Drunken Boat*. He has published or edited seven books and chapbooks of poems, including *Seamless Matter*, *Voluptuous Bristle*, *Wanton Textiles*, Connecticut Book Award Finalist, *Instrumentality* and 2010 National Poetry Award Winner, *Deepening Groove*. Along with Tina Chang and Nathalie Handal, he edited *Language for a New Century: Contemporary Poetry from Asia, the Middle East & Beyond* (W.W Norton & Co.), called "a beautiful achievement for world literature" by Nobel Laureate Nadine Gordimer. He has won a Pushcart Prize, been featured in *The New York Times* and the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, appeared on the BBC and NPR, and has performed his work around the world. He is on the faculty of Fairfield University and the first international MFA Program at City University of Hong Kong.