



**PEN**

**CLIQUE**

**OCT. 2019**

**PEN CLIQUE PRESENTS:**

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# THE POETRY-ART CHAPBOOK

WORDS

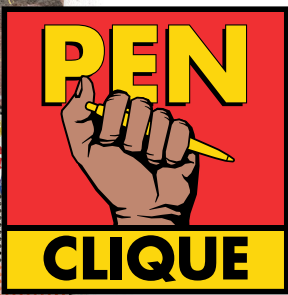
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Book design by "Kuya David" Lazaro

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For inquiries, contact [info@penclique.net](mailto:info@penclique.net), or slide into the IG DMs: @PenClique. You can also shoot your shot on FB: PenClique, or TW: @ThePenClique. For even more amazing poetry content, visit us at [www.penclique.net](http://www.penclique.net).





PEN CLIQUE PRESENTS:

# THE POETRY-ART CHAPBOOK

They say *“don’t judge a book by its cover,”* but in the era of social media and its flood of visual content, we often only have time to gaze at the stickiest headlines and eye-grabbing images. Knowing this, we realized by using short poems in poster art, we can offer a fresh and accessible way for the public to experience poetry.


From Japanese Edo-period woodblock prints to Dadaist type experiments, artists have experimented with combining poetry and visual art throughout history. The difference between then and now? We have Photoshop and the Internet.

We sourced 12 poems from Pen Clique’s online community, and with the help of some talented designer friends, we were able to translate those poems into the posters you see in this chapbook.

**The idea is simple:** Anybody can appreciate good design and a great poster. Through this concept, we hope this hybrid artform becomes a new platform for poets and designers to express themselves. So for you poets that have a knack for art, and you artists who have a way with words, let’s get to work and make some art history.





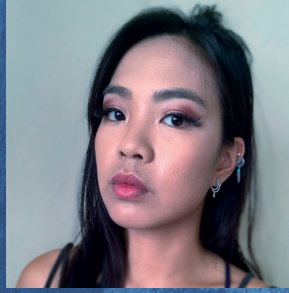


Sometimes  
I dream  
I'm drowning.  
The sea is so  
comforting  
under  
the waves  
Nothing  
matters  
while the storm  
rages  
on  
above.

Deep waters  
swallow me whole.  
I am  
a sinking  
ship

—Aubrey  
Manahan





## Aubrey Manahan

Poet

Aubrey Manahan is a Filipina-American, Southern California native who has had a life-long love affair with words. She uses her poetry as a way to process the world, its issues, and her emotions.



## Steve Isaacs

Artist

Steve Isaacs is an illustrator and creative director living in Los Angeles with his lovely wife, April, and two ambivalent cats. You can follow him at @si.illo on Instagram.



**BLOOD IN SACRED SPACES • WE HAVE TO TRY • TO STOP THIS.**

**"THE PRICE OF PRAYER" ALEX LUU**  
(LINES TO BE READ FORWARD & BACKWARDS, INDICATED BY BULLETS •)



**ALL OUR OPPRESSORS; • BULLETS IN THE CHAMBER TO**

**• THE FLESH OF VICTIMS SPEWING •**





## ALEX LUU

### POET

Alex Luu is a queer, award-winning spoken word poet and performer, whose work has been featured on *Write About Now*, KCET, and *The Huffington Post*. He aims to be an inspiration for fellow Asian Americans – an exclamation that we can be loud and proud in the stories we tell.



## DAVID SCHWARTZ

### ARTIST

David Schwartz has lived in the east, north, south and west designing album covers, movie artwork and branding for companies. Fun fact: He's featured on two Prince albums. This year he's debuting a sculpture in a series dubbed the Rhyme Capsule. IG @davidmaxschwartz | RhymeCapsule.com



WORDS BY BRIAN OLIVA

I COULD BE LOST  
IN A ROOM  
WITH A MILLION OF YOU -  
AND STILL FIND

YOU

DESIGN BY YAMAGUCCI





## BRIAN "SUPERB" OLIVA

### POET

Brian "SuperB" Oliva is an accomplished writer and spoken word artist with a touch of R&B and soul. He is a co-founder and co-host of Urbane Culture – one of the most successful open mic venues in Pomona – and currently the curator and booking manager of Intention Artist Collective.



## JAMES YAMAGUCCI

### ARTIST

James Yamagucci is a designer & art director.  
He likes to see the Divine Order in all things.



# To All

Would-Be SUITORS,  
LYRICAL SWOONERS,  
PERFECT-PICTURE,  
PAIN <sup>IN THE</sup> ASSES  
WITH ROSE-TINTED GLASSES,  
STAR DUST catchers,  
ESSENCE SNATCHERS  
THAT WILL COVET  
MY BELOVED  
LITTLE  
GIRL;  
BEWARE.  
YOU ARE  
NOT  
READY.





*Alex Alpharaoh*  
*Poet*

Alex Alpharaoh is a multi-disciplined, award-winning artist from L.A. As the founder of SP!T: Spoken Word Theatre, he fuses his love for acting and poetry into narratives about his community and the city of Los Angeles in order to create awareness and expose new audiences to live theatre and modern poetics. You can find him on all social platforms as @Alpharaoh



*"Kuya David" Lazano*  
*Artist (& Co-Host of Pen Clique)*

I did a bunch of these posters; so to make sure you're not reading the same thing about me, I'll just give fun facts about the designs. This one, for example, was inspired by this brand of matches from Australia called Redheads. Look up, "Redhead matches." The box design is pretty neat.

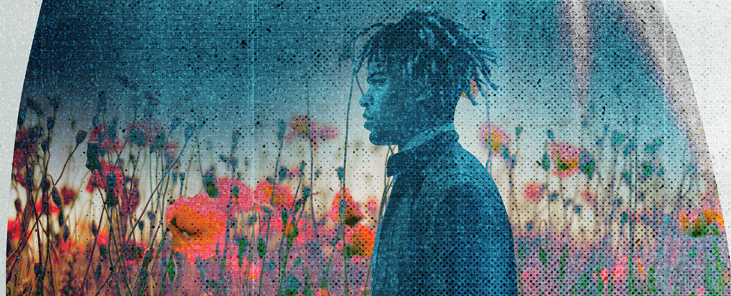
# BOY SO IN LOVE

WITH A BOY  
JUST LIKE HIM, ENCOURAGED TO  
KEEP YOUR HEART HIDDEN WITHIN

JUST KNOW THAT YOU'RE THOUGHT OF  
I SWEAR WE WON'T CEASE  
THE CRY FOR YOUR FREEDOM

# THE BATTLES FOR YOUR PEACE

-INCLUSION



POEM BY JASMINE RAFAEL  
DESIGN BY AMANDA TROVELA





## JASMINE RAFAEL

### POET

Jasmine Rafael is a dancer, choreographer, poet, singer, and actress located in the Los Angeles region. Her passion is helping people feel like they can authentically be themselves.



## AMANDA TROVELA

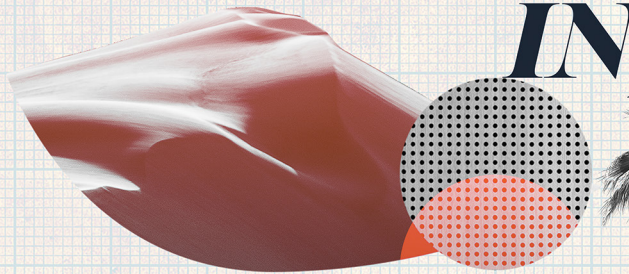
### ARTIST

Amanda Trovela is a freelance graphic designer based in Los Angeles. She uses illustration, photography and animation to help build brands – both big and small.

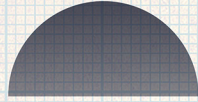


*Damascus · (dimashq)*

*To deny what is deserved is*



*To grant what is not is*



دمشق



**MERANIE MCGUIRE**  
**POET**

San Fernando Valley native Meranie McGuire began writing poetry as a way to exact her overpowering yet obscure teenage emotions. She continues to express herself through her work as she "fights on" at the University of Southern California.



**JUSTICE**

**GRACE**

*and vice versa*

*Poem by Meranie McGuire · Design by Seth Garnes*



**SETH GARNES**  
**ARTIST**

Seth Garnes is an animator and director working and living in Los Angeles. He's got a passion for film, animation, and design that you can find on most social platforms as @gseth3.



Drinking  
Champagne  
in Chernobyl,



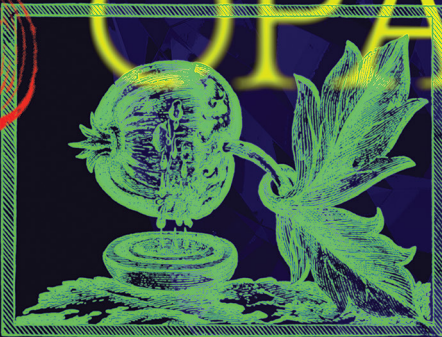
MESSAGES

We don't really speak much...  
Only when phones are brandished,  
hands mime gang-signs, that coded language:

IN HOPES

THEY CAN TURN

ORPHEUM  
INTO  
OPALS.



POEM BY:  
Jardel Rodriguez

PE

DESIGNED BY:  
Christian Barker

MANCHESTER TO LOS ANGELES  
MAN ✈ LAX

HAZN...LS







## *Jardel Rodriguez*

POET

A 22-year-old writer from Manchester, England, whose love of Grime music turned into a love of language. He believes the way a poem sounds is as important as what it says.



## *Christian Barker*

ARTIST

Christian Barker is a Los Angeles based designer/art director and DJ with a healthy obsession for underground sounds and the communities they create.



POEM BY ROZLIND SILVA  
**TURON**  
DESIGN BY KUYA DAVID

PEEL SKIN  
UNTIL



Seek Color

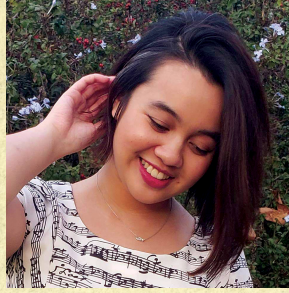
Turon  
Seek:  
Sweet,  
Soft,  
SKIN,  
BROWN



**YOU ARE**

**ONE AGAIN.**





## ROZLIND SILVA

*Poet*

Rozlind is an SGV-based poet that writes for political awareness and personal freedoms. As a recent UCSB alumna, she continues to tie her artistic work to the education field as a college-based organizer and active member of Bayanihan Collective.



## "KUYA DAVID" LAZARO

*Poet (& Hot-Sauce Fanatic)*

That "White" bar of soap is papaya soap, a common skin-whitening product used in the Philippines (among other countries). Also, to get "cling desperately" to read, I experimented with brushing the letters with actual oil in a pan... It didn't work.





THEODORE & AVALON ATTRACTIONS BRING YOU  
THE RAMONES BLACK FLAG  
NOV 17 8PM

HOLLYWOODLAND

LIVING IN THE SUN

FELIX

IS ALL WE WERE RAISED TO DO,

BEVERLY HILLS  
SUNSET BLVD

NOT KNOWING OUR LUCK.

PARKING  
AM TO 6 PM  
EXCEPT

DONUTS

FORM BY DANIEL BRES

CO-DESIGNED BY  
WILLIAM STAVOLD





## DANIEL J HEES

POET (& Co-Host of Pen Clique!)

Daniel is a spoken word artist and producer working throughout LA's poetry scene and internationally via Radio, TV, and Internet. He hopes to expose new audiences to the power of poetry and art.



## WILLIAM MYRVOLD

ARTIST

William Myrvold is a San Gabriel Valley native who fills his time with family, art, and skateboarding.





HEAVEN IS  
FRAGILE

LIKE CATCHING A  
SOAP  
BUBBLE

POPPING ONCE  
IT'S HERE





## “Kuya David” Lazaro

POET & DESIGNER

David Lazaro (aka Kuya David) is a senior art director in the entertainment advertising industry, and an intermittent poet. Using his professional skill sets cultivated in design & advertising, David seeks to build a new platform for poetry to thrive and grow in the digital age.





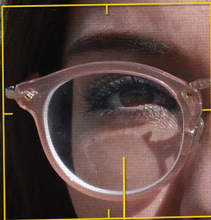
HDR



CALENDAR

The year that we fell apart...  
My wisdom teeth came in

And overcrowded my jaw



forcing my smile  
into misalignment

Leaving no more room  
for your bones

VIDEO

IN MY BODY

PHOTOGRAPHY







## XICA NECIA

POET

Xica Necia is a Nica-Xapinx, queer, femme artist and survivor of sexual violence. After enduring many years of silence, they began to write as part of their healing process, and today they use their art to resist against toxic rape culture.



## "KUYA DAVID" LAZARO

ARTIST (& KOREAN FOOD LOVER)

I actually built an entirely different poster before this one. After receiving the other posters from my design friends, however, I became dissatisfied with mine and started over. I'll probably upload the old version eventually, so be sure to follow us online, @PenClique, to stay updated on all our poetry content.



More  
than  
a polaroid  
picture

More than a  
temporary  
feeling

Glossy &  
semi-permanent

is all you saw  
& me for.





## Tiana Gaudioso

Poet

Tiana Gaudioso is a self-created poet from Phoenix, AZ navigating her way through discovering her own art. She can be found in other independent magazines such as *Suburban Rose*, *Girls Our Age*, and *Retrograde*.



## Kuya David Lazaro

Artist (& Poster Maker)

The girl in the photo is Aubrey Manahan, the poet on page 5. We did a whole photoshoot outside, but the photos all looked too similar. Then I remembered I have colored lights in my apartment, which provided great color contrast between the photo “levels.”





**Thank you!**

*Grazie!*

*Obrigado*

Спасибо! Dank u!

*Hvala ti!*

*Grazie!*

Thanks!  
Gracias!

*Obrigado!* *Dziękuję!*

*Hvala!*

*¡itos!*

σας ευχαριστώ!

**Gracias!**

كل ارك ش!

*Merci!*

ขอบคุณ

**takk!** Спасибо! **Díky!**

*Grazie!*

Thanks!

**Gracias!**

Dank u!

Спасибо!

*Obrigado!*

**Te ekkürler!**

σας ευχαριστώ!

*Hvala ti!*

**Danke!**

感謝です。 *Aitäh!*

**őszönjük!**

**takk!** *Hvala ti!*

*! Merci!*

**Gracias!** 谢谢

hanks!

**Gracias!**

**Te ekkürler!**

σας ευχαριστώ!

*Obrigado*

ขอบคุณ!

**Díky!** *Aitäh!* كل ارك ش!

*dziękuję!*

**Gracias!**

*Grazie!*

*Obrigado*

**Thank you!**

*Hvala!*

*Grazie!*

Thanks!  
Gracias!

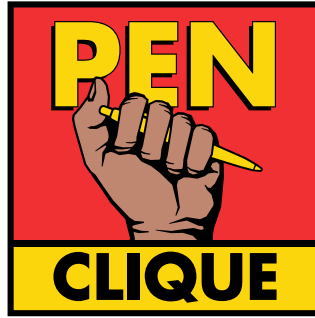
Спасибо! Dank u!

*Hvala ti!*

*Obrigado!* *Dziękuję!*



# A HEARTFELT THANK YOU FROM



Thank you to everyone (THE CLIQUE) who's helped us put this entire project together. From the amazing Kickstarter backers, our family, friends, loved ones, the designers, the poets, our online supporters... we can't thank you all enough.

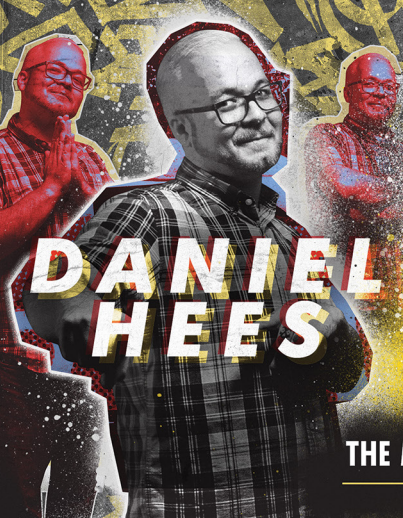
Whether y'all connect with our vision of modernizing poetry through engaging content and experiences, or simply wanna support your favorite poetry podcast hosts Kuya David and Daniel Hees, we're forever grateful to you. Your support allowed us to explore this concept of art and poetry, and we firmly believe this can become a new, public platform for poets to express and support themselves.

We also wanna give a special thank you to the Panafest organizers, Rochelle Newman-Carrasco and Carlos Carrasco, who were gracious enough to allow us to premiere our pop-up poetry art gallery at their event. Thank you to Alex Alpharaoh for connecting us with the Panafest folks, and an additional special shoutout to the Downtown Independent staff who welcomed us into their venue space. As they say, "deadlines are the biggest source of inspiration," and Panafest kept us firing on all cylinders.

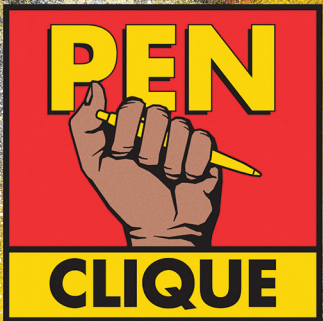
Lastly, special shoutouts to Jorel, Kyrk Blanchard, Dawn Baillie, & Chris Jones for their generous donations that helped make this possible.

Thank you all again. See you at the next one...





**DANIEL  
HEES**



**KUYA  
DAVID**

**THE MOST POPPIN POETRY PODCAST  
IN THE GALAXY**



**2 PIECE  
COMBO**

**5 FOR YA EYE**




**THREADS AND LINES**

**PEN CLIQUE**







***“Pen Clique is like if Complex produced a poetry show where everyone involved loved Maya Angelou in equal measure to nasally Gucci Mane.”***

**Pen Clique’s mission** is to make poetry entertaining and accessible to a mainstream, internet savvy audience. They achieve this through their poppin’ poetry podcast, fun YouTube videos, and engaging social media posts; all of which are filtered through an entertainment-centric perspective.

Pen Clique, which is currently in its second season, is hosted by Daniel Hees and “Kuya” David, with episodes released bi-weekly on all major podcast platforms, including a video counterpart on YouTube. For more information, visit [PenClique.net](http://PenClique.net) or follow [@PenClique](https://www.instagram.com/PenClique) on Instagram and Facebook.





OPALS



More than a  
Temporary  
feeling

