**Giovanna Lomanto**

1919 Market Street

Oakland, CA 94607

giovannalomanto@berkeley.edu

+1 (916) 502-7197

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| **ARTIST STATEMENT** | | |
| My artistic practice centers poetry—performance, publication, and education for a future generation of poets. Poetry piqued my interest when I entered my education at the University of California, Berkeley, where I studied English literature and creative writing, taking the most competitive classes in the major—the verse seminars and the honors thesis. Through this education, I learned more about how to approach my craft with a sense of duality, and I focused on using external, tangible sensations to describe internal feelings. Not only did this realization better my work, it also allowed me to find restoration and healing through the poetry I wrote. My first collection, published in 2019 with Scrambler Books, is titled *no body in particular*, and the poems largely center around my relationship to my body through the long and arduous process of recovering from a debilitating eating disorder. After the release of the book, I found myself drawn to performance, reading poems from the book at slams and open mic nights. I kept writing, homing some of my poems in various literary magazines, and I was eventually offered performance gigs over zoom, reading my poetry to Bay Area communities. These readings continued as in-person events resumed, and I found myself on the stage more and more often. However, the writing was the root of it all, and I decided to hone my craft at New York University's Low Residency Master of Fine Arts Program upon my graduation from Berkeley. In 2021, I also released my second collection of poetry *jupiter fell out the sky last night* through Bound to Brew. The title quickly went out of print, but after having so much of my work in performance, I decided to record the audiobook and publish an ebook of the work online. Following this experimentation with form, I then approached the art book publisher RITE Editions and have been working closely with the organization to locally source and produce an interactive poetic erasure edition (described in my publications). The edition is set to be released in December of 2021.  In addition to my personal creative pursuits, I have also worked to solidify my own identity in relation to the larger communities in the East Bay. As a Southeast Asian American, disabled woman, I largely focus my poems on metaphor to relay my experience to peers experiencing the same injustices or to advocate for my identities and allow others to understand the ongoing process of healing. I performed my poetry at a solidarity rally for Stop Asian Hate and Black Lives Matter, where I was able to visibly see the reactions of a community that understood the themes and subject matters of intergenerational trauma that come with the violence against Asian Americans. I also collaborated with local artist and friend Jane McKay to create a chapbook called *moonlit heartline*, the proceeds of which we are donating to the Black Table Arts fund in Minneapolis, the city where George Floyd was murdered. My art is not simply for myself—my art is using my experiences to amplify emotion, to connect others to their own identities as well.  My work has been featured on KALW (San Francisco Public Radio), the Worth-Ryder Art Gallery, NewsBreak, Indonesian Writers, Box (a Journal), and the Elevation Review. The 2021 San Francisco Poet Laureate Tongo Eisen-Martin has also written in praise of my work, stating: " Giovanna Lomanto has a vanguard imagination with poems like a pianist racing to the climax of an era. A loving care for language and political economy make for Lomanto’s exciting, singular writing that is like coming to the carnival and watching a performer juggle gravity fields. Lomanto is truly a confidant of the cosmos bringing so much insight to bear in a moment like a master painter able to reveal through their subjects the play and contradictions of competing winds." The generous reception to my work has been a source of external recognition, but I am of the strong opinion that this has occurred as a result of my internal focus on selfhood and empowerment. Ultimately, I stand by the idea that acceptance and activism are rooted in compassion, which places value on the individual and their experiences. As such, my work's focus on embodiment and presence is an internal exploration of how our mentality and physicality are paramount to affecting external change. | | |
| **EDUCATION** | | |
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| **Master of Fine Arts Candidate**  ***New York University*** |  | *Anticipated Class of 2023*  ***Hybrid: Remote & Paris, France*** |
| * Low Residency Writer's Workshop in Paris * Specialization in Poetry |  |  |
| **Bachelor of Arts** | | *Class of 2021* |
| ***University of California, Berkeley***   * English Major, Creative Writing Minor * Highest honors in the major, GPA: 3.921 | | ***Berkeley, CA*** |
| **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE** | | |
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| **Teaching Artist**  **Bay Area Creative** |  | *May 2021-Present*  ***Greater Bay Area*** |
| * Lead workshops as the lead teaching artist in residency at three schools (elementary, middle, and high schools) across the greater Bay Area * Work within a classroom dynamic to ensure that students are engaging with the curriculum and writing a minimum of eight lines of poetry every week * Run a voluntary afterschool club where students are coached individually and as a team for slam competitions across the district | | |
| **Teaching Artist**  **Chapter 510** |  | *January 2020-Present*  ***Oakland, CA*** |
| * Develop curriculum to create engaging, generative workshops to allow middle and high school students to create individual poems and collective fictional narratives during class * Foster a supportive environment through which students feel comfortable to be vulnerable in their writing and share their work with their peers * Participate in cultural sensitivity and pedagogical development trainings led by Studio Pathways | | |
| **Program Associate**  **Chapter 510** | | *August 2019-August 2021*  ***Oakland, CA*** |
| * Coordinated internal program documentation and record-keeping while simultaneously maintaining external communications with program partners and students' families * Assisted program staff at in-school writing programs within Westlake Middle, Franklin Elementary, and Hoover Elementary by serving as an on-site assistant in all creative writing workshops offered * Supported the Creative Director with internal and external communications, website content creation, and by working at the Dept. of Make / Believe retail store throughout the year | | |
| **Community Engagement Internship** | | *February 2019-May 2020* |
| ***Bay Area Book Festival*** | | ***Berkeley, CA*** |
| * Collaborated with the Community Liaison, Marketing Director, and Program Manager to help design and implement outreach strategies to bolster engagement and attendance * Managed and promoted the annual Young Author’s Writing Contest (YAWC), a writing contest open to all high school students in the Bay Area * Judged and edited the submissions to the Young Author’s Writing Contest and the Graton Writing Project to compile students’ stories into a comprehensive anthology | | |
| **Subsidiary Rights Assistant**  **University of California Press** | | *August 2018-August 2019*  ***Oakland, CA*** |
| * Worked in the Rights & Permissions Department to protect authors’ rights by engaging in various tasks (watermarking and protecting proof copies, directing translation queries, entering copyright information into databases, packaging and sending complimentary copies, etc.) that honor contracts * Maintained correspondence with various international subagents and communicated between various companies seeking translation rights * Assisted Rights & Permissions Department with daily clerical and administrative work including filing papers, making copies, and responding to emails | | |

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| **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES** | | |  |
| **President**  ***English Undergraduate Association*** | *August 2017-May 2021*  ***Berkeley, CA*** | |  |
| * Plan and execute events for student outreach through the U.C. Berkeley English Department that connect the students with the faculty and create a community in a large department (mixers, open mic nights, hot chocolate with professors, etc.) * Create agenda for and run weekly board meetings to resolve issues that arise within the leadership team | | |  |
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| **Volunteer**  ***Prisoners' Literature Project*** | | *January 2019-Present*  ***Berkeley, CA*** |  |
| * Select specific titles for each individual from a donated library of books * Write letters and address packages to be mailed to prisons | | |  |
| **Reading & Composition Tutor**  ***Art of Writing Program*** | | *January 2021-May 2021*  ***Berkeley, CA*** |  |
| * Tutor students seeking essay advice on lower division English papers by assessing the given prompts, grading rubrics, and the material the students provide and then giving them specific tips for revisions * Engage with a graduate student mentor and other tutors during biweekly workshops to develop mentorship skills and develop a pedagogical stance | | |  |
| **HONORS AND AWARDS** | | |  |
| **Honors Seminarian, U.C. Berkeley English Department**   * Honors seminar in which students write a 40-60 page senior thesis on the literary topics of their choosing, incorporating critical theory and review into textual analysis | | |  |
| **Berkeley Undergraduate Scholarship Recipient**   * Scholarship awarding both new and continuing students with over a 3.5 GPA who demonstrate both academic merit and financial need | | |  |
| **Cal Alumni Student Association's Leadership Award**   * Scholarship honoring students who have exhibited great leadership within campus organizations with the intention of continuing to serve as an example and role model for various communities   **Yeats International Summer School Fellow**   * Scholarship through a generous donation of an English department alumni providing two fully funded trips to the Yeats International Summer School in Sligo, Ireland to study Yeats and other Irish poetry at a focused seminar | | |  |
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| **PUBLICATIONS** | | |  |
| **Poetry Artifact: *Erase This: A Prose Poem for the Sentimentalist,* RITE Editions (Forthcoming 2021)**   * *ERASE THIS: A PROSE POEM FOR THE SENTIMENTALIST* is an interactive art book in which the reader is invited to participate in an erasure poem. The 14-page prose poem touches on themes of heartbreak, abstraction, and sentimentalism. The package includes an archival box filled with three items: a printed copy of the poem with a cover that says, a QR code to an online version of the poem, and a permanent marker. The QR code is for posterity—for those who want to linger on the poem and revisit it at later times, as I often feel is necessary when encountering new poetry. The printed poem, however, is intentionally supposed to be effaced with the permanent marker. In doing so, the reader receives and creates a new poem at the invitation of a marginalized author, thus allowing for a discussion of permission and intention in erasure.   **Poetry Collection: *jupiter fell out the sky last night*, Bound to Brew (2021)**   * *jupiter fell out the sky last night* is Giovanna Lomanto’s second collection of poetry. Her sophomore foray investigates how the internal affects the external (and vice versa) and focuses on the beauties of sensation—physical, emotional, and all of the space in between. The poems are dedicated to the identification of exploration, investigating deep within and asking questions of the far out. Evocative and emotive, Giovanna’s poetry is dedicated to celebrating the beauty of capturing moments and feelings through metaphoric description or mimetic invocation.   **Poetry Collection: *Nobody in Particular*, Scrambler Books (2019)**   * In her debut poetry collection, Giovanna Lomanto discovers, debunks, and later rediscovers conceptions of herself. This highly personal work encompasses an ideology of perspective, and her emphasis on thought and feeling throughout the book exemplifies suffering and satisfaction, trials and triumphs. She presents the poems as a dialogue between herself and the reader, instigating a conversation between words and their impact. Though many of the poems are inspired by events unique to her life, she invites her readers to share in a joint experience of emotion. | | |  |