

12 MN POEMS FOR THIS MOMENT

A very incomplete list, but a starting point. Find links to these and others at www.guante.info/try

- Ollie Schminkey - Land of 10,000 Lakes
 - SEE MORE PERSPECTIVE - Spring Is Coming
 - Muna Abdulahi - The poem is Good
 - Carl Atiya Swanson - They Tear-Gassed a Baby
 - Tish Jones - The Children Are Watching
 - Ed Bok Lee - Civilization
 - Isabela "Isa" López - We Are Not Your Immigrants
 - Kevin Yang - Come Home
 - Zach Goldberg - Figs
 - Isha Camara - Notes on Renee, on Minneapolis
 - Kyle Tran Myhre - Let Your Heart Be a Whistle
 - Tufawon - No One Is Illegal
- Okay, so that last one is a song, but I wanted to include it. And while making a whole list of songs would be beyond the scope of this zine, local org **TCUP** has a story highlight on their IG linking to a ton of MN musicians speaking out. In that spirit, a personal note: check out **Secret Rivers' SPRING IS COMING** project - 100% of the proceeds goes to the NHN TC ICE Relief Fund: SecretRivers.info

5 RESOURCES FOR POETS, WRITERS, AND ARTISTS

While expression is not all we have to offer, it matters. Here are 5 resources for creative communicators looking to speak out and show up. Find links at guante.info/try.



1) meeting the moment: political poetry and the anthemic impulse

A virtual, asynchronous class for writers interested in language as a tool for creative resistance, truth-telling, and narrative-shaping. 7 videos + a workbook full of notes, resources, and writing prompts.

2) poetry against ICE: virtual panel

Kyle Tran Myhre, Isha Camara, Ollie Schminkey and SEE MORE PERSPECTIVE share poems and talk about what makes them work. Watch the video or download the audio to listen, podcast-style.

3) salt, warmth, and force: anti-ICE workshop notes + writing prompts

Get the full slides from this class, including food for thought, some powerful poem examples, and seven in-depth writing prompts.

4) let every word be a wrench in their machine: writing prompts

A big bank of writing prompts, some specific to this moment, some more generally about how we address political and social issues.

5) spark your writing: ideas for starting your own writing group

It isn't just what we write that matters - the process of collaboration and building community can have an impact too. In moments of crisis and uncertainty, art is also about creating space for us to be and grow with each other.

Once again, find all of these resources at guante.info/try



*all cats by Helen Reveur

WHAT CAN ARTISTS DO?

In January 2026, we organized a big virtual workshop exploring practical ways artists can support organizing beyond our art. A few examples:

- **Fundraising:** Benefit shows, raffle drives, donating a portion of sales, etc. to support mutual aid efforts.
- **Amplifying Calls-to-Action:** We don't have to be experts; we can use our platforms to signal-boost organizers and get our audiences plugged in.
- **Using Artist Space as Activist Space:** Share call-to-action resources where we already are: the stage, merch table, professional network, gallery space, etc.

- **Strategic Narrative-Shifting:** Create space to tell better, fuller stories about the issues that matter: themed events, creative collaborations, PSAs, etc.

- **Boosting Morale, Building Community, and Just Doing Stuff Together:** Our enemies want us isolated and overwhelmed. Open mics, collaborative art projects, performances, jam sessions, craft nights, poetry slams, dance parties: these can all disrupt that.

Find the full notes, slides, examples, and other resources from this discussion at www.guante.info/try

FOR PEOPLE ASKING "WHAT CAN I DO?"

This zine is mostly about sharing artist-specific resources and calls to action related to the ICE/CBP invasion of our community, but sometimes, the most powerful thing we can do is take our artist hats off and just show up as neighbors first. A few possibilities:

- **Attend** an "upstander" or legal observer training (via MONARCA, MIRAC, Immigrant Defense Network, or another group). Follow groups like this to plug in.
- **Connect** to a local rapid response network. Talk to neighbors! In MPLS, links like defend612.com and linktr.ee/mspwhistles can be starting points.
- **Support** each other: mutual aid, donations, as well as everyday neighbor stuff: offering rides, getting groceries, etc. Find more: standwithminnesota.com
- **Find your role:** Frontline rapid response isn't the only job that needs doing. Admin, data entry, childcare, policy & legal work, narrative & media work, grocery deliveries, fundraising, and beyond—it all matters.

ACTION IDEA: these points are available as a printable handout at www.guante.info/try. Print, adapt, share!

MN VOICES, GUIDING STARS

Hope is the oxygen of rebellion. - Ricardo Levins Morales

Minnesota may be getting beaten down by various nefarious forces right now, but its people are finished being nice. This moment calls for something much more powerful, necessary and transformative. And we are all discovering what that is. - Shannon Gibney

We march together no matter the temperature, no matter the fear inflicted, no matter the hatred weaponized, because of our love for humanity. - Bao Phi

Violence has a way of turning familiar places into guarded ground. And yet, I think about kindness — the way strangers once helped me when I was lost — and I ask not what has been taken, but what we will continue to build from what remains. - Ifrah Mansour

Winter is here again. ICE wherever I look. But I'm a real Minnesotan. Winter is just a season. I know ice is temporary. I know it turns to water and in the water is a portal. Let this world end. Up ahead, we're already somewhere better, together, prepared and ready for if and when this bitter season visits us again. - Danez Smith

Find all the links at guante.info/try

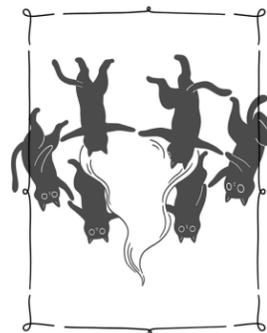


They hate art—and artists—because we represent a stronghold: one piece of society they can't just buy, or crush, or be in charge of. No matter how bad things get, there will be murals painted without permission, dancing beyond their surveillance, and poems that tell the truth.

It's the same reason they hate Minneapolis, come to think of it. And it's why we will win.

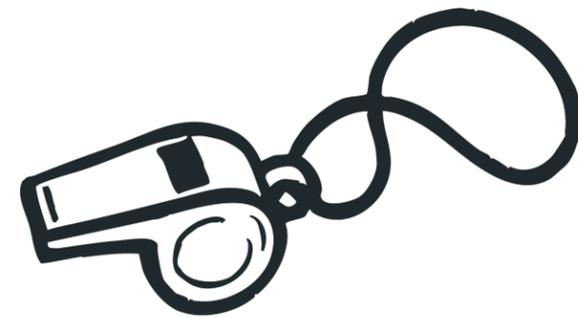
- Kyle Tran Myhre, from How Can Artists Show up for Minneapolis? (RocketMN.com, 1/21/26)

NOTE: While the quote above is about Minneapolis, and a few of the resources here are specific to Minnesota in 2026, this zine is meant to be adaptable. Please feel free to remix, recontextualize, and reimagine. Find links to all the resources in this zine at: www.guante.info/try



For Artists, Writers, and Other Creative Troublemakers

notes from MPLS, 2026



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