

MITA MAHATO, PhD

POET, ARTIST, EDUCATOR

website: mitamahato.com

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

CREATIVE WORKS

"Cathart." San Francisco Center for the Book Mentorship Award project. June 2025.

Arctic Play, The 3rd Thing. 2024.

TROPSSAP. Commissioned by Bainbridge Island Museum of Art. October 2024.

"Nest." *PRISM*. August 2024.

"Whale Fall: Sequences 1, 2, 3." *Ecotone* no. 34 (Summer Wrobel, Ed). June 2023.

"Columbia Basin Pygmy Rabbit: An Auto-Elegy," *Evergreen: Tales from the Gloomy Pacific Northwest* (Sharma Shields and Maya Jewell Zeller, Eds). Scabland Books, November 2021.

"Pink-Headed Duck: An Auto-Elegy." *Iterant* (Bianca Stone, Ed.). August 2021.

"Alligator Gut: A Representation of Survival with Papers, Polyethylene, and Residual Inks." *Shenandoah* no. 70, V 2 (Rachelle Cruz, Ed.). June 2021.

Seismic (visual essay cover) (Kristen Millares Young, Ed.), Seattle City of Literature. September 2020.

"What Dread Hand and What Dread Foot?" *Coast/No Coast* no 2. August 2020.

"IT'SALLOVER and other poems on animals." *ANMLY* no. 30. April 2020.

"Climate Changes Health." Commission with Public Health - Seattle and King County. April 2019.

"Lullaby." *Shenandoah* no. 68, V 1. November, 2018.

"Window." *Mutha Magazine*. March 23, 2018.

In Between: Poetry Comics by Mita Mahato (Katherine Neurnberger, Ed.), Pleiades Press (University of Central Missouri) 2017.

"Depth," *Cold Cube Anthology #3* (Michael Heck and Aidan Fitzgerald, Eds.), Cold Cube Press, 2017

"For You Blue." *Seattle Weekly*. June 28, 2017.

"Lucky Devil." *Ghosts of Seattle's Past* (Jaimee Garbicek, Ed.), Chin Music Press (Seattle, WA), 2017.

"Fish and Chips." *Seattle Weekly*. May 18, 2016.

"Chicken." *Seattle Weekly*. January 6, 2016.

"Sea." Self-published comic. October, 2015.

"Hitched." Self-published comic. June 2015.

"Cancer." *Drunken Boat Literary Arts Journal* no. 17. June 2013.

"Side Effects." Comic commissioned by Dr. Matthew Cheeseman with Phoenix Research Study: Surviving Cancer, University of Sheffield, U.K. August 2013.

ESSAYS

"Material Losses: Elegy in Collage and Compost." Field Guide to Graphic Literature. Kelcey Parker Ervick and Tom Hart, Eds. Rose Metal Press, 2023.

"Material Comics." *Image/Text* 11.3 (July 2020).

Comics Forum Guest Article. "Universalism Revisited: The Cartoon Image, My Mom, and Mii." September 12, 2013

Invited Guest Blogger for Graphic Medicine. "Joyce Brabner: Giving Voice through Words and Pictures." July 11, 2012

HONORS AND AWARDS

San Francisco Center for the Book Mentorship Award, 2025

Seattle Office of Sustainability and the Environment Climate Resilience Hub Community Engagement Cohort, 2024

Loghaven Residency, April 2024
Storyknife Residency, June 2023
ArtWaves Fellowship & Residency with Helmholtz Institute for Functional Marine Biodiversity and HWK (Germany), 2023
Black Earth Institute Fellow, 2022-2025
Mineral School Residency, August 2022
Common Area Maintenance 2nd Avenue Sign Residency, 2021-2022
Best American Comics 2019, Notable Comic Book (*In Between*)
CityArtists Projects Award, The Office of Arts and Culture & Seattle Arts Commission, 2018
The Arctic Circle Residency, The Farm, October 2017
Artist in Residence, UC Riverside School of Medicine, Spring 2017
Cartoonists NW, Best Comic Book of 2015 ("Sea")

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

ARTIST TALKS

University of Nebraska, Omaha, Coffee and Comics Series, April 2025
San Francisco Center for the Book, "From the Bench" online series, April 2025
University of Puget Sound, Department of English, February 2025
University of British Columbia Department of Creative Writing, "An Apprenticeship in Readiness: Experimental Practices with Mita Mahato and Lara Mimosa," Feb 2025
New York Comics and Picture Story Symposium (online), Jan 2025
Woven Words Series, George Washington University, October 2024
Hanse-Wissenschaftskolleg Fellow Lecture, March 2023
Show Up! Short Run Seattle, Spring 2023
Northwest School Spring Summit, April 2022
North Seattle College Art Gallery Artist Lecture Series, February 2021 (zoom)
NW Collage Society, Seattle, June 2020 (recorded)
Lion Rock Visiting Writers Series, Central Washington University, April 2020 (recorded)
"The Last Time I Saw You: Art and Climate Grief," University of British Columbia, Vancouver, October 2019
"Re-Kindle," Washington State University Visiting Writers Series, Pullman, WA, February 2019
"What is Graphic Medicine?" Museum of Art, Washington State University, September 2016
"These Frames are Hiding Places," University of British Columbia, Vancouver, November 2015
"These Frames are Hiding Places: Processing Grief Through Comics." Invited by UC Riverside, Departments of English and Anthropology, February 2014
"Drawing Blood: Comics and Health." Invited by Short Run Small Press Festival, Read/Write Program, November 2013

READING EVENTS

Los Angeles Festival of Books, Poetry Stage, April 2025
AWP offsite reading, Shenandoah + Ecotone anniversary celebration, March 2025
AWP, Los Angeles, March 2025 (with Johnny Damm and Sarah Leavitt)
Seven Snakes Reading, Common Area Maintenance, January 2025
Olympia Timberland Library + Danger Room Comics, November 2024 (with Anne de Marcken)
Printed Matter, NYC, October 2024 (with Sarah Glidden)
Taylor and Co. Books, Brooklyn, October 2024 (with Hannah Sassoon)
Lost City Books, DC, October 2024 (with Kat Chow)
Haymarket Books, Minn, October 2024 (with Didi Jackson, Peter Champion, and Kathryn Neurnberger)
Floating World Comics, Portland, October 2024 (with Alissa Hattman)

Arctic Play Book Launch, Commons Area Maintenance, Seattle, October 2024 (with Anne de Marcken, Robert Francis, Tessa Hulls, Sarah Leavitt, Jasmine Elizabeth Smith, and Jane Wong)
Convergence, University of Washington, Bothell, September 2024
Laydeez Do Comics (online), London, June 2021
Margin Shift (online), Seattle, April 2021
Hugo House (online), Seattle, October 2020 (with EJ Koh and Katherine Nuernberger)
Seattle Lit Crawl (*Coast/No Coast* showcase), October 2019
Whitman College Visiting Writers Series, Walla Walla, WA, March 2018
Elliott Bay Books, Seattle, December 2017 (with EJ Koh, Montreux Rotholtz, Jane Wong)
Fantagraphics Books, Seattle, November 2017
Seattle Lit Crawl (Short Run showcase), October 2015
New Tomorrow, Seattle, April 2015 (with ET Russian, Robyn Jordan, and Raychelle Duazo)
Seattle Public Library, March 2015
Olympia Public Library, February 2015 (with ET Russian)
Art-Sci Salon. Tacoma Art Museum, November 2013
Laydeez Do Comics, Chicago Branch, June 2013

SELECTED TEACHING

Seattle Public Library, Seattle Reads/Crafternoon, May 2025
Sequential Artist Workshop, Friday Night Comics, "Place," March 2025
The Poetry of Paper Workshop, Poet's House NY, October 2024
Arctic Play Workshop, Quimbys Books, Chicago, October 2024
Arctic Play Workshop, Lion Tooth Books, Milwaukee, October 2024
Collage Poetry for Riso, Paper Press Punch, Seattle, September 2024
Comix and Storytelling Workshop Series, Seattle Office of Sustainability and the Environment, Spring/Summer 2024
Comix Memoir, Young Women Empowered Y-We Write Camp, August 2024
How to Question Everything, Collage-o-Rama, June 2024
Collage Poetry for Riso, Paper Press Punch, February 2024
Wasserzeich(n)en: Experimenting with Comics and Poetry in the Classroom, HIFMB + Schlaueshaus, April 2023
Water Book Activity Series, HIFMB + Mädchentreff Oldenburg, March 2023
Color-Coded: A Comix Workshop, Annual Graphic Medicine Conference, July 2022
Wild Caught Comix Poetry Workshop, Common Area Maintenance, March 2022 (zoom)
Loss in Translation Workshop, Hua Foundation, June 2021 (zoom)
Comics and Climate Grief, UBC Climate Hub Climate Creative Workshop Series, March 2021 (zoom)
Comix Poetry Workshop, King County Library System, January 2021 (zoom)
Color Workshop, Graphic Medicine/Drawing Together, December 2020 (zoom)
Graphic Medicine, UC Riverside School of Medicine, August-September 2020 (zoom))
Comix Poetry Workshop. UBC Creative Writing Summer Residency, July 2020 (zoom)
Hybrid Forms Craft Workshop. Central Washington University, April 2020
Autobiographical Comics. Museum of Museums, January-March 2020 (with Kelly Froh)
Comics Workshop. Everett Public Library, September 2019
Comics Workshop. Seattle Reads. Seattle Public Library, May-August 2019
Experimental Comics 3-day Intensive. Washington State University, February 2019
Drawing Workshop Teacher. Audubon Society + Seattle Public Library, April 2018
Teacher. "Practicing Graphic Medicine." School of Medicine, UC Riverside, Spring 2017
ArtVentures Workshop Teacher. Henry Art Gallery, 2016-2019

Workshop Teacher. Creativity Inspiring Conservation, Seattle Aquarium, 2015-2016
Senior Project Mentor. Highline High School, 2015
Making Comics Workshop. Seattle Zine Project, 2014-2016
Zine-Making Workshop "The Art of Entymology," Evergreen State College, August 2014 (with Kelly Froh and Emilie Bess)
Workshop Leader. Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*. Freedom Education Project Puget Sound. Washington Corrections Center for Women, 2014

SELECTED CLASSROOM VISITS: Hugo House (Sierra Nelson); Cornish College of the Arts (invited by Britta Johnson); Pace University, NY (invited by Jillian MacDonald); George Washington University, DC (invited by Kat Chow); University of Minnesota, Minneapolis (invited by Kathryn Nuernberger; May Lee-Yang); University of British Columbia, Vancouver (invited by Sheryda Warner; Sarah Leavitt); Bush School, Seattle (Jasmine Elizabeth Smith and Ali Stewart-Ito); Northwest School, Seattle (Claire Cowie and Molly Mac); University of Washington, Bellingham (Jane Wong); University of British Columbia, Vancouver (Sarah Leavitt); Short Run Seattle (Kelly Froh); Hugo House Scribes (Corinne Manning, Sierra Nelson); Seattle Nature Schools (Lee Bess)

CURATION AND JURY WORK

Juror/Mentor, Seattle Art Book Fair "Page Turner Fellowship," 2024/2025
Juror (first round), Storyknife Residency, 2023
Juror, Seattle Office of Arts and Culture, CityArtist Project Grant, 2023
this was a densely wooded hill; Satpreet Kahloon, in collaboration with Asia Tail and Kimberly Deriana of yəḥaw̓ Indigenous Creatives Collective, Henry Art Gallery, 2022 (with Ian Siporin)
EL SUEÑO: The Flowers that Bloom, Henry Art Gallery 2021-2022 (with Ian Siporin)
Free Them All: Portraits from La Resistencia, Henry Art Gallery, 2020-2021 (with Ian Siporin, José Antonio Lucero, and La Resistencia)
We Own Our Words, Henry Art Gallery, 2021
Short Run Slide Show Series, Hedreen Gallery, 2021 (with Kelly Froh)
Juror, Seattle Office of Arts and Culture, Bridge Residency Program, 2020
Comix Body, Kittredge Gallery, University of Puget Sound (October 2018)
Juror, Ignatz Awards, 2018

EDITOR

"Careful/Care-full Collaborations," *About Place Journal*, Spring 2025 (with Maria Elizabeth Abegunde)
Archive of Longings: Poems Inspired by the Work of Diana Al-Hadid, with Ian Siporin (Henry Art Gallery)
Henry Art Gallery Community Interpretive Guide Series, with Ian Siporin
Packaged Black (2022)
Hostile Terrain '94 and Free Them All (2021)
In Plain Sight (2020)
We Own Our Words: Voices from the Washington Corrections Center for Women, Henry Art Gallery, 2020
Graphic Medicine #1, 2017
Red Eye, with Eroyn Franklin and Jon Horn, Short Run Micropress, 2016
Bloody Pussy, with Eroyn Franklin and Kelly Froh, 2015

ACADEMIC CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

"Calls to Action: A Conversation on Comix, Social Justice, and Mutual Aid." Invited Plenary Session Graphic Medicine Annual Conference, Chicago. July 2022.
"Fathom: Imagining the Arctic as Home." ASLE, University of California, Davis. June 2019.
"Intersections of Poetry and Visual Arts." AWP. Portland, OR. April 2019.
Keynote Lecture, "Material Comics," Annual Conference on Comics and Graphic Novels, University of Florida, April 2018.

"Fieldwork: Graphic Medicine Outside." Ninth International Conference on Comics and Medicine; White River Junction, VT. August 2018.

"Paper Cuts: Making Space for Care." Sixth International Conference on Comics and Medicine; Riverside, CA. July 2015.

"Bound: A Lecture and Workshop." Fifth International Conference on Comics and Medicine; Baltimore, MD. June 2014.

"Remembering You Well: Comics and the Ethics of Narrative Memory." Fourth International Conference on Comics and Medicine; Brighton, UK. July 2013.

"The Rising Tempo of Panic": Narrative, Anxiety, and the Spaces between the Boxes." Narrative Medicine; London, UK. June 2013.

"Signs of Life: Framing Terminal Illness, Death, and Grief through Comics." Third International Conference on Comics and Medicine; Toronto, Canada. July 2012.

"Academic Vices -or- Embracing the 'Stupid' Things Students Have to Say about Comics." Third Annual International Comics Conference; Bournemouth, UK. June 2012.

"Stigmatic Text: Suture and Silence in David Small's *Stitches*." Comics Forum/Graphic Medicine: Visualizing the Stigma of Illness; Leeds, UK. November 2011.

"Drawing Lines: Identifying Health and Illness in David Small's *Stitches*." Joint International Conference of Graphic Novels, Bandes Dessinées, and Comics; Manchester, UK. July 2011.

"His Cancer Year: Harvey Pekar's Alienating Identification." Comics and Medicine, Chicago, IL. June 2011.

EXHIBITIONS

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

We are contaminated by our encounters. Second Avenue Sign Project, Common Area Maintenance (Seattle), curated by Whitney Bashaw and Timothy Firth (October 9, 2021 - November 3, 2022)

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

Marathon. Fantagraphics Bookstore and Gallery, curated by Larry Reid (Nov 2024)

Crossing the Line: The Passport Reimagined, Bainbridge Island Art Museum, curated by Catherine Michaelis (October 2024)

Hummingbird Water, Heavy Manners Library, L.A., curated by Aidan Alexis Koch (September 2022)

Graphic Public Health, Fantagraphics Bookstore and Gallery, curated by Larry Reid (June 2022)

Comics for All, Seattle City Hall, curated by Kelly Froh (May 2019)

On/Off Grid. Gene Siskel Film Center, Chicago, IL, curated by Lydia Fu (April 2018)

Art to Read. SOIL, Seattle, WA, curated by Jessica Hoffman (November 2017)

Marathon. Fantagraphics Bookstore and Gallery, curated by Larry Reid (November 2017)

Paper Cut Book Show. Reading Room 220, New Orleans, LA, curated by Jessica Hoffman (August 2017)

Alternative Comics Exhibition, Wexner Museum of Art, curated by Zach Mazur (October 2016)

Ghosts of Seattle's Past. Love City Love Gallery, Seattle, WA, curated by Jaimie Garbicek (April 2016)

Make.Shift.Art Space, Bellingham, WA, curated by Cullen Beckhorn (February 2015)

Marathon. Fantagraphics Bookstore and Gallery, curated by Larry Reid (Nov 2013)

Graphic Novel Northwest. Art Gallery at Shoreline Community College, curated by David Lasky (Nov 2013)

COLLECTIONS

Cynthia Sears Collection (Bainbridge Island Museum), Bainbridge Island, WA

Wexner Museum of Art, Pullman, WA

SELECTED PRESS

The Comics Journal, "The Best Comics of 2024" (Charles Hatfield), December 2024

The Stranger, "Best Books Out of the PNW This Year," December 2024
Full Stop, "Arctic Play - Mita Mahato," November 2024
Big Other, Interview with Alissa Hattman, October 2024
Seattle Times, "Six Books by Artists in this Year's Short Run Festival," October 2024
RHINO poetry, Interview with Naoko Fujimoto, October 2024
Bellingham Review, Interview with Michelle Peñaloza, June 2024
Julia Kleinbeck blog interview, "In Conversation with Mita Mahato," October 2023
HIFMB - Stories of Science and the Sea Podcast, "Mita Mahato - On Art as Science Communication and Her Very Old Cat," May 2023
Catapult, "The Poetry of Comics: A Conversation with Collage Artist Mita Mahato," February 2022
Seattle Review of Books, "Between Poetry and Comics, Between Animal and Human," 2019
Seattle Review of Books, "Short Run is Seattle's Best Book Festival," November 2018
Shenandoah Peak, "Loud with Invention: An Interview with Mita Mahato," November 2018
Panel Patter, "Favorite Indie Books of 2017," January 2nd, 2018
Seattle Review of Books, "Thursday Comics Hangover: 2017 in Review," December 28, 2017
Fantagraphics Bookstore and Gallery, "What's in Store: Top Comix of 2017," December 2017
Amodern, "On Graphic Arts and Ephemera: A Conversation with Mita Mahato," December 2017
Seattle Review of Books, "Adventures in the Third Dimension," October 31, 2017
Seattle Weekly, "The Top 5 Local Books to Look Forward to This Fall," September 13, 2017
The Stranger, "*Ghosts of Seattle Past* Creates Art out of Seattle's Favorite Pastime," March 2, 2016
Seattle Review of Books, "Short Run for the Long Haul," November 2, 2015
The Stranger, "Short Run Festival Spotlight: Mita Mahato's Cut-Up Comics," October 29, 2015
The AV Club, "Comics Panel" (Bloody Pussy Review), October 6, 2015
Graphic Medicine, "Bloody Pussy: The Interview," September 16, 2015
Short Rundown, "New Release Spotlight," June 23, 2015
Bitch Media, "Six Great Small Press Titles to Seek Out," November 5, 2014
Comics Reporter, "Go Look: Mita Mahato," September 25, 2014
The Comics Beat, "CAKE Report: Indie Comics Go to Chicago," June 4, 2014

EDUCATION

Certificate, Environmental Education Outcomes, Civic Ecology Lab, Cornell University, 2021
Ph.D. English Literature, University of Oregon, 2003
M.A. English Literature, University of Oregon, 1999
B.A. English Literature, University of California at San Diego, 1996

EMPLOYMENT

Freelance Artist and Educator (comics, cut paper, collage), 2012-current
Associate Curator of Public and Youth Programs, Henry Art Gallery, 2019-2022
Affiliate Faculty, University of Washington School of Art, 2021-2022
Associate Professor of English, University of Puget Sound, 2011-2019
Artist Facilitator, Henry Art Gallery, 2016-2019
Assistant Professor of English, University of Puget Sound, 2005-2011