

## Ariana Brown, *List of Services*

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### Live Poetry Performance

*(30 min performance + 30 min Q&A or 15 min performance + 30 min Q&A)*

Ariana Brown's poetry explores Black survival in the U.S. and Mexico, girlhood, queerness, and finding your people in a world designed to make us lonely. Reading from her books *Sana Sana* and *We Are Owed.*, Brown combines history, personal narrative, and spoken word poetry into dynamic live performances that allow the author and audience to tend to their own softness. Brown's tender and critical voice reminds us to commit to building a world in which Black girls can be free, and makes space for the questions, visions, and dreams required to do so. Brown encourages audience feedback and will respond to live audience questions following the performance.

### Artist Talks

*(1 hour: 30 min talk, 30 min Q&A)*

#### **We Are Owed: Language & Liberation**

In this artist talk, Ariana Brown considers how cis-heteropatriarchy and white supremacy inform the construction of cultural and national identities. Using poems and research from her new book, *We Are Owed.*, Brown interrogates the accepted origin stories of Mexican and Mexican American identities, focusing on histories of Black relationality and resistance in Texas and Mexico. Combining storytelling, poems, and dialogue, this artist talk emphasizes Brown's lived experiences growing up in Texas as a Black Mexican American and links them to the larger project of anti-Blackness within Texas and Mexico.

#### **Taking Care of Black Girls When the World Won't**

Ariana Brown describes finding her way to poetry in 2009 and using it as a tool for personal and communal care. Ariana will contextualize her work within Black performance traditions and rituals, particularly in local slam poetry communities in Texas. Drawing on her lived experience as a queer Black Mexican American and her research in African Diaspora Studies and Mexican American Studies, Ariana will trace her attempts to recover Black girlhood not just for herself, but for other Black girls too. Combining storytelling, poems, and dialogue, this artist talk is an opportunity to hear from Ariana directly about how her identities and politics shape her writing.

## Writing Workshops

*(60 Minutes for any demographic, 90 Minutes for writers)*

### **Collective Scream: Coping During COVID-19**

Our lives are forever changed by the upheaval, grief, and violence caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. As the virus continues to evolve, it is important we speak and connect with one another about how we are navigating everyday life. This gentle and generative workshop asks participants to simply document what their lives have been like since the virus surfaced in 2019 in the form of list poems and rants. Ariana will provide guided prompts and discussion with the hopes of finding relief and release. Ideal for participants of all backgrounds.

### **Radically Tender**

Embracing our own softness can feel impossible in a world which tells us we must develop hardness in order to survive. How can we allow ourselves to find the power in tenderness, in softness? This workshop explores the capabilities of tenderness, focusing on self-care and communal care, through writing exercises and group dialogue. This workshop is discussion-based and ideal for beginner writers.

### **Love, Names & Odes\***

Some of the strongest feelings we have are about our own names and the people we love. In this workshop, we will study poems by Ebony Stewart and Meghan Malachi on reclaiming your own name and how to love someone by truly seeing them. Through a series of writing exercises and conversation, participants will consider the power of their own names and the strength of their love (self-love or love for another person). Ariana will guide everyone in writing odes to themselves or to their loved ones. Ideal for writers of all backgrounds.

*\*Requires a facilitator to share their video and audio to play a video for this workshop.*

### **Finding the Words: How to End Writer's Block**

This is a writing workshop for poets and creative writers designed to get you out of your head! Do you edit yourself when writing? Do you have a hard time finding inspiration? Ariana offers guided, open-ended prompts to help participants generate new writing together and silence your inner critic so you can finally write in peace. Participants will walk away with at least one new poem and ideas for new creative work. Group sharing is encouraged. Ideal for writers of all backgrounds.