

The Mellon Digital Humanities Initiative presents:

THE BEYOND THE BARS SPRING 2017 SERIES

Prison Poetry: An Active of Resistance

Public Lecture with Rend Smith
Prison Poetry Workshop

Thursday, March 23 | 4:10pm

The Roemmele Global Commons, Williams Hall
31 Williams Drive
Lehigh University
Bethlehem, PA 18015

Sit in any prison classroom or juvenile center and ask: How many writers are in the room? How many people are writing rhymes or poems? From pockets, carefully folded pieces of paper will emerge, each with words upon them written in precise, tightly composed handwriting. They are written on the backs of grievance forms and scrap paper, and each week, they are mailed off to loved ones. Considering our country's two-million-plus prisoners, these exchanges constitute one of our largest literary movements to date. Taken individually, these poems are powerful testaments to highly individual struggles. Collectively, they are also part of an important literary practice involving citizens speaking from and representing their humanity despite being behind bars – from Voltaire to Martin Luther King, Jr.



Poetry Beyond Bars

Spoken Word Event with host
Professor Kashi Johnson
Department of Theatre, Lehigh University

Thursday, March 23 | 8:00pm
(Doors open @ 7:30pm)

Touchstone Theater
321 E 4th Street
Bethlehem, PA 18015

Performances by

Miles J. Davis
Scribe
Yodi Vaden
Tatiana Hernandez
Kiskeyana
Basement Poets

...as well as contributions from poets incarcerated in
PA prisons



For more information on any of these events visit

https://digital_humanities.cas2.lehigh.edu/content/lecture-and-film-series

Prison in Twelve Landscapes

with filmmaker, Brett Story

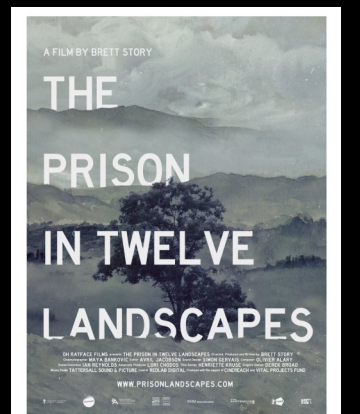
Wednesday, March 29

6:00pm Film

7:30pm Panel Discussion

LV Charter High School for the Performing Arts
321 E 3rd Street
Bethlehem, PA 18015

More people are imprisoned in the United States at this moment than in any other time or place in history, yet the prison itself has never felt further away or more out of sight. The Prison in Twelve Landscapes is a film about the prison in which we never see a penitentiary. Instead, the film unfolds as a cinematic journey through a series of landscapes across the USA where prisons do work and affect lives, from a California mountainside where female prisoners fight raging wildfires, to a Bronx warehouse full of goods destined for the state correctional system, to an Appalachian coal town betting its future on the promise of prison jobs.



Panel discussion with filmmaker, Brett Story, and community leaders from POWER NE, the Coalition Against Death By Incarceration (CADBI) and others.

Co-sponsors: Southside Initiative, Southside Film Institute