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For Immediate Release

The Gertrude C. & Harold S. Vanderbilt Reading Series featuring Elise Paschen on October 8th

Press Photos

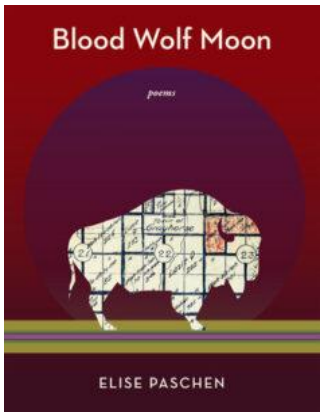

Photo caption (left): Elise Paschen
Photo caption (right): *Blood Wolf Moon Cover*

Who/What

On **October 8th**, The Gertrude C. & Harold S. Vanderbilt Reading Series will host Rome Foreword Indie Book of the Year recipient and former executive director of the Poetry Society of America, author Elise Paschen. This event is presented by the Creative Writing Program and the Department of English.

The Gertrude C. and Harold S. Vanderbilt Reading Series is named in honor of Vanderbilt founder Cornelius Vanderbilt's great-grandson and his wife. Each semester, the series brings several professional writers to campus to read from their works and visit classes. This unique and

extraordinary program gives English department students and faculty, the Vanderbilt community, and Nashville's citizens a chance to meet and talk with some of the best writers of our day.

When
Thursday, October 8, 2026
6:30 Literary Salon
7:00 Reading
8:00 Book Signing

Where
Special Collections Library and University Archives
1101 19th Ave S, Nashville, TN 37212

Admission/Tickets
Free and open to the public. No tickets or registration required.

Accessibility
Special Collections Library and University Archives is an accessible venue. Guests in need of access accommodations are invited to contact Arianna Pappas at arianna.f.pappas@vanderbilt.edu at least one week prior to the event date.

Parking
Parking can be found on the side streets or in paid lots in the area.

Website Link
https://as.vanderbilt.edu/english/reading-series/

[Nashville, TN] — The Gertrude C. & Harold S. Vanderbilt Reading Series, presented by the Vanderbilt Creative Writing Program and Department of English, continues the 2026-2027 season with a reading by Elise Paschen who is the author of six poetry collections, most recently, *Blood Wolf Moon* (winner of the Foreword Indie Book of the Year Award in Poetry and the Oklahoma Book Award in Poetry), as well as *Tallchief, The Nightlife, Bestiary, Infidelities* (winner of the Nicholas Roerich Poetry Prize), and *Houses: Coasts*. As an undergraduate at Harvard, she received the Garrison Medal for poetry. She holds M.Phil. and D.Phil. degrees from Oxford University. An enrolled member of the Osage Nation, Paschen has received the Rupert Costo Chair in American Indian Affairs Medal. Her poems have been published in *Poetry Magazine* and *The New Yorker*, among other magazines, and in numerous anthologies, including *The Best American Poetry* and *A Norton Anthology of Native Nations Poetry.* She is the editor of *The Eloquent Poem: 128 Contemporary Poems and Their Making* as well as *The New York Times* best-selling anthology, *Poetry Speaks to Children*, and co-editor of *Poetry Speaks* and *Poetry in Motion*, among other anthologies. Former Executive Director of the Poetry Society of America, she is a co-founder of *Poetry in Motion*, a nationwide program which places poetry posters in subway cars and buses. Paschen teaches in the MFA Writing Program at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Additional readings in the 2026-2027 series will feature fiction writers and poets, Ayana Mathis on October 29, Victoria Redel on December 3, Matthew Zapruder on January 14, Sarah Wang on February 4, Alumni Poets on April 1, and Jane Huffman on April 15.

In November, the series will welcome Pádraig Ó Tuama, Tracy K. Smith, and Kevin Young for *Poetry & Our Spiritual Lives: A Reading and Panel Discussion*, in conjunction with Vanderbilt University–New York City.

Thanks to a gift from the Fellowship of Southern Writers, a celebration will be held in March with details to be confirmed. We will honor the literature of the American South and encourage writers to shape that legacy by writing imaginatively, honestly and openly based on their lived experiences today.

In the spirit of National Poetry Month, poet Jane Huffman will give a reading of her collection *Dilemma*, the winner of the third annual Vanderbilt University Literary Prize. This award is a collaboration with the Chancellor's Office, College of Arts & Science, and Department of English.

To learn more about upcoming events and Creative Writing program news, visit the Vanderbilt Reading Series website and social media channels, and sign up for the monthly newsletter here.

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