



# COLORED HORSE STUDIOS

b e c a u s e c u l t u r e i s a l w a y s u r g e n t

Theresa Whitehill  
poet

Paulo Ferreira  
artist

## THERESA WHITEHILL, POET

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE & SELECTED CV, UPDATED 4 MAY 2008



PORTRAIT OF THERESA WHITEHILL, OLAF BECKMANN, 2006

A California poet, designer, and letterpress printer, Theresa Whitehill's literary oeuvre includes poetic essays, culinary poetry, letterpress broadsides, and commissions. She is well known to Mendocino county audiences as an expressive performer.

Most recently, she has written and designed a guide to the estate of Stags' Leap Winery, published in 2006. As Poet-in-Residence at Stags' Leap Winery in 1998, she participated in a series of salons that became the subject of a CBS Special. *Évora a Doce*, her poem about Portuguese soul and food was published as a limited edition letterpress broadside by Alice Waters in 1999. Whitehill's Flash-animated

version of *Évora a Doce* was featured in the American Film Institute's 1998 Annual Report as part of her work with their innovative California Digital Arts Workshop. *Appellation Magazine* has published her poetic prose, and her poetry has appeared in numerous regional California magazines and anthologies.

Since 2000, she has been partnering with chef Shannon Hughes on a series of culinary poetry events, with Hughes' menus designed around her poetry with themes developed by the duo collaboratively. Their first venture, *The Heart's Invention*, was produced by Hughes in 2000 at her restaurant, Pangaea, in Point Arena. *Saudades* was commissioned as an artistic event by Stags' Leap Winery in the summer of 2003. The third event in their trilogy, *Ayuba* (Arabic for *Wonder*), is currently in process, scheduled to be produced in the winter of 2008.

Born and raised in California as the third generation of a fruit ranching family, Whitehill studied history of the book and typography at Mills College in the early 1980s, and creative writing at UC Santa Cruz in the late 1970s. She lives in Mendocino County in northern California, where she and her husband, artist Paulo Ferreira, founded Colored Horse Studios, a venue for their literary, artistic, and commercial design work. Their literary letterpress broadsides and her poetry are in the collections of the Getty Museum, the John Hay Library of Brown University, the Bancroft Library at UC Berkeley, Stanford's Special Collections Library, the New York Public Library, the Special Collections Department of UCLA, the San Francisco Public Library, Mills College Special Collections, and City College of San Francisco, as well as many private collections.

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## SELECTED CURRICULUM VITAE; RELATED WORK AND ACTIVITIES

- 2001–2008 *Stags' Leap Winery: a Guide to the Estate* in 5 volumes: a collection devoted to knowledge of Stags' Leap Winery, its history, wines, and culture; the book was designed, written, and produced by Whitehill. In April of 2008 the winery held a reception for the book in the Trustees' Room of the New York Public Library
- May 2007 *the diosas & other letterpress broadsides of colored horse studios*, exhibit, Tierra: Art, Garden, Wine, Ukiah, California
- 2000–2008 *Collaborative and Spontaneous Writing*, teaching, workshop, Point Arena Library, February 2008, San Francisco Center for the Book, July 2007 and August 2000
- 2002–2006 Member, Poet Laureate Committee of Ukiah
- 2000–2006 *The Estate Letters*, Poetic essays for semi-annual winery newsletter, Stags' Leap Winery, Napa, California (8 editions, black and white; 4 editions color)
- October, 2005 *Liqueur de Poète*: Poetry commission and label design, Germain-Robin Distillers, Ukiah, California
- Summer, 2005 *"How Art Becomes Wine"*: Poetry commission, Phillips Hill Estates, Philo, California
- Fall, 2004 *"Napa Valley"*: Back Label poetry, Beringer Winery, Napa, California
- July, 2004 *Finding Good Bread*: Poetry commission and letterpress broadside for Sonoma Slow Food and Barn Diva's *A Taste for Art: Celebrating the Artisanal in Food*, in collaboration with baker Della Fattoria of Petaluma, and photographer Meg Dakin; along with nine other teams of food artisans, artists and photographers, culminating in an auction and progressive dinner held Saturday, July 17 at Barn Diva, Healdsburg, California
- June, 2004 *Taking Instruction from the Night*: commissioned poetry and performance as part of Beringer Winery's 2004 Wine Auction hospitality event, with chefs Hiro Sone and Lissa Doumani of Terra, with dinner held at the Hudson House, Beringer Winery, St. Helena, California, Thursday, June 3
- November, 2003 *Heart Throb*: Poetic essay on the art of Dana DeKalb, printed in the announcement for a show of paintings, Heather Marx Gallery, San Francisco, California
- August, 2003 *Saudades*: Culinary poetry collaboration, commission, and performance with chef Shannon Hughes for Stags' Leap Winery, Napa, California; limited edition publication of poems and menu designed by Zida Borcich Letterpress, published in January 2004
- April 10, 2003 *Ventriloquisms*: Poetry and puppet theater, commission by Grace Hudson Museum, Ukiah, California, as part of their exhibit Puppets of the World and poetry month, with Zida Borcich, poet and puppeteer
- January 2003 *Broadsides at Tangerine!* Solo broadside exhibit and featured poetry reading
- August 2001 *Because Culture Is Always Urgent*: Poem commissioned by Alice Waters on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of Chez Panisse
- May 2000 *Toe in the Water*: Poem commissioned by the Mendocino Land Trust upon their 35th Anniversary



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- February 2000 *The Heart's Invention*: Culinary poem commissioned by chef Shannon Hughes for her restaurant, Pangaea, Point Arena, California; performed as a Valentine's feast to the accompaniment of the cooking of Shannon in seven courses of amuse bouche
- 2000 *Collaboration in Paint*: Poetic biography of collaborative artists Michael Leventhal and Ricia Araiza
- August 1999 *Évora a Doce*: Poem published by Alice Waters, designed and printed letterpress by Richard Seibert, in a limited edition broadside to commemorate the life of chef Catherine Brandel
- May/June 1999 "Pangaea," Off the Menu Department, *Appellation Magazine*, Napa, California; profile of chef Shannon Hughes
- January 1999 *Napa Valley: Portrait of a Community*, Catalog of paintings, prose writings, and poems written during Poet-in-Residence at Stags' Leap Winery in the spring of 1998, with opening reception at the Napa Valley Museum, January 1999, and CBS Special in March 1999.
- Jan/Feb 1999 "bio vinifera," Feature Article, *Appellation Magazine*, Napa, California; the story behind the creative project, *Napa Valley: Portrait of a Community*
- Jan/Feb 1998 "Still Life," Feature Article, *Appellation Magazine*, Napa, California; portrait of brandy maker Hubert Germain-Robin
- December 1993 *A Natural History of Mill Towns*, poetry chapbook published by Pygmy Forest Press, Albion, California
- 1977–Present Publication of poetry in California regional publications *Montserrat Review*, *Oxygen*, *Redwood Coast Review*, *Semi-dwarf Quarterly*, and the anthology *Wood, Water, Air & Fire* from Pot Shard Press
- 1977–Present Performance of poetry in cafes, bars, restaurants, homes, theaters, outdoors, television, and radio
- 1993–Present *Colored Horse Studios*: Publishing and printing literary letterpress broadsides with artist Paulo Ferreira, also using serigraph, offset lithography, and monoprinting
- 1977–Present Production of poetry readings including publishing a monthly web calendar of poetry events in Mendocino and Lake Counties, hosting regular open readings at Colored Horse Studios, featured poetry reading production, design of literary announcements, flyers, commemorative and occasional posters

## EDUCATION

- 10/06–6/07 *Foundation of Poetics*, seminar with Diane DiPrima, in 9 monthly sessions with 6 private sessions
- 11/98 *California Digital Arts Workshop*, American Film Institute, Hollywood, California; studied digital media (Macromedia Flash animation, digital video, digital sound, html coding) for online creative work; Whitehill's project was chosen to be featured in the American Film Institute's annual report
- 9/80–5/82 *Mills College*, Oakland, California; Book Arts, Typography, History of the Book, Creative Writing
- 9/76–6/77 *University of California at Santa Cruz*, Kresge College; Basic Sciences, Spanish, "Birth of a Poet" with William Everson
- 1/76 *Sir Francis Drake High School*, San Anselmo, California, graduated