

# NATALIE DAMJANOVICH-NAPOLEON

Poet | Songwriter | Educator

Western Australia

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I am a Western Australian cross-disciplinary poet, songwriter and educator whose work explores memory, migration, eco-poetics and feminist autoethnographic storytelling. I recently completed a PhD in Creative Writing at Edith Cowan University, *The Commonwealth of Amnesia*, examining cultural and historical amnesia through nonfiction erasure poetry. My poetry and creative nonfiction have been widely published and anthologised in Australia and internationally, including alongside US Poet Laureate Ada Limón in *Dear Human: Poems on Climate Change in the United States*. My third poetry collection, *The Commonwealth of Amnesia*, will be published by Rabbit Books in 2026. My practice combines documentary poetics, ecological writing, collective biography and experimental nonfiction.

## EDUCATION

2024 – Doctor of Philosophy (Creative Writing), Edith Cowan University

2016 – Master of Arts (Writing), Swinburne University

1995 – Bachelor of Arts (Honours) English, Curtin University

1993 – Bachelor of Arts (English), UWA

## KEY SKILLS

Creative and academic writing | Workshop facilitation | Community development (WA Poets) | Teaching instruction | Curriculum development | Mentoring and student support | Research and critical analysis | EFL instruction | Editing and proofreading | Online teaching platforms (Blackboard, Canvas, Zoom, MS Teams) | Copy editing and publication | Social media campaigns | Video and flyer editing and production

## AWARDS & HONOURS

2026 – WA Multicultural Awards – Artist of the Year Nominee

2025 – Woollahra Digital Literary Prize – Shortlist - ‘Weaving Them Home’

2025 – ACU Poetry Prize – Shortlist - ‘The Blue Wrens Having it Out...’

2025 – AAWP/Westerly Life Writing Prize – Longlist - ‘Finding Napoleon’

2024 – Peter Porter Poetry Prize – Shortlist – ‘Immigration Triction’

2022 – AAALS Creative Writing Prize – Shortlist - ‘Night Stitches’

2019 – KSP Poetry Prize – Winner - ‘If There is a Butterfly That Drinks Tears’

2018 – Bruce Dawe National Poetry Prize – Winner - ‘First Blood: A Sestina’

## FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

2025 – CITS Grant – *Axe Marks in Tree Trunks* bio-poetry project

2025 – Mascara Literary Review Emerging Critic Fellowship

2024 – Red Room Poetry Fellowship and Varuna Residency

2023 – Katharine Susannah Prichard Writers’ Centre Emerging Writer Residency

## **BOOK PUBLICATIONS**

2028 – *More Flies Than Stars* (forthcoming from Life Before Man Books)  
2026 – *The Commonwealth of Amnesia* (Rabbit Books)  
2023 – *If There Is a Butterfly That Drinks Tears* (Life Before Man Books)  
2019 – *First Blood* (Ginninderra Press)

## **JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS**

Poetry and creative nonfiction published in: *Australian Book Review*, *Westerly*, *Griffith Review*, *Cordite Poetry Review*, *Australian Poetry Journal*, *Axon*, *Rabbit*, *Antipodes*, *StylusLit*, *Meanjin*, *The Australian*, *Red Room Poetry*, *Kalliope X*, *Hippocampus (US)*, *The Manifest-station (US)* and *Entropy (US)*.

## **RECENT PUBLICATIONS**

2026 – ‘Afternoon Blouse’ - *Cordite*  
2025 – ‘I Gave My Best Years To Australia’ etc. - *Kalliope X*  
2024 – ‘Axe Marks in Tree Trunks’ – *Westerly*  
2024 – ‘Immigration Triction’ – *Australian Book Review*  
2023 – ‘No Moon and Salt’ – *Rabbit*  
2022 – ‘More Flies Than Stars’ – *Westerly*

## **ANTHOLOGIES**

2025 – *Best of Australian Poetry 2025*, Australian Poetry  
2025 – *Belonging: ACU Prize Anthology*, ACU Press  
2024 – *Women of a Certain Courage*, Fremantle Press  
2024 – *Poetry of Change: The Liquid Amber Prize Anthology*, Liquid Amber Press  
2023 – *Dear Human: Poems on Climate Change in the United States*, Paloma Press (US)  
2021 – *What We Carry: Poetry on Childbearing*, Recent Work Press

## **PANELS, READINGS & FESTIVALS**

2026 – Reading and Writing for Change – Book launch reading  
2025 – York Writers Festival – *Kaartdijin Bibool Boodja* workshop with Megan Ugle  
2024 – Newcastle Writers Festival – *Poetry Salon & Words and Music*  
2024 – Clunes Booktown Festival – *The Point of Poetry* panel  
2024 – State Library of Western Australia – *Four Poets Speak*  
2022 – Ubud Readers & Writers Festival – Refugee Writing Panel Moderator  
2019 – Perth Poetry Festival – International Guest Poet  
2019 – Mission Poetry Series – Online Reading, US  
2018 – Tuesday Poets at the Library – Santa Barbara Public Library, US

## **WORKSHOPS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Workshops delivered at: WA Poets Inc., WestWords, City of Swan, Museum of the Goldfields, KSP Writers Centre, Denmark Festival of Voice, Fremantle Library, Midland Junction Arts Centre and Storylines Festival. Focus on eco-poetry, docu-poetry, found text, visual poetry and life writing.

## **MUSIC & CROSS-ARTS PRACTICE**

2025 land ((word)) journey – Collage, Group Exhibition, MJAC | 2020 *You Wanted to Be the Shore But Instead You Were the Sea* | 2012 *Leaving Me Dry* | 2009 *Here in California* | 2007 *After the Flood*

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

WA Poets Inc. | Copyright Agency | APRA AMCOS | AAALS (American Association of Australasian Literary Studies)