# Holly Simonsen

##### Education

2008 – 2010 **Vermont College of Fine Arts**, Montpelier, VT, MFA, Poetry Writing; advisors: Jody Gladding, Mary Ruefle and Ralph Angel

2001 – 2003 **Westminster College**, Salt Lake City, UT, BA, English and Secondary Education, *magna cum laude*

##### Employment

2010 – present **Westminster College,** Salt Lake City,

 English Professor: teach Introduction to Writing (ENGL 110) and Introduction to Literature (ENGL 220)

2010 – present **Coldwell Banker Commercial***,* Salt Lake City, Editor: edit an online real estate publication

2013 – present **Vermont Studio Center**, Johnson, VT, Judge: evaluate fellowship applications in poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction

2010 – 2012 **Higher Ground Learning**, Salt Lake City, Learning Specialist: taught and tutored students in a wide variety of subjects

2003 – 2010 **Brighton High School**, Salt Lake City, Teacher: taught full time Creative Writing I and Creative Writing II to high school seniors; advised the student literary magazine, *Runes*; served on various policy committees, including: curriculum development, school safety and attendance

2006 – 2010 **Columbia University Press**, Judge: evaluated literary magazines from around the country

2001 – 2003 **Barnes & Noble Booksellers**, Salt Lake City, Bookseller

### Publications / Literary Contests

June, 2014 Poetry, “Seed Syllable,” Kudzu Review

January, 2014 Poetry, “Topped,” \*82 Review

January, 2014 Poetry, “Spring Held Out Her Arms and Two Were Salty,” “Basin and Range,” “Shots Fire, Waterfowl Season, Deep Haze,” “Bonneville, Winter,” “Waif,” “Chinese Calligraphy, Character One,” Labletter

October, 2013 Essay, “To Egg You On,” T/OUR

August, 2013 Essay, “To Egg You On,” The Weeklings

July, 2013 Review, “A Shell Halved: Elizabeth Robinson’s *Counterpart*,” Tarpaulin Sky Press

April, 2013 Full-length poetry manuscript,

 S AL T F LA T, finalist, New Issues Poetry Prize, New Issues Press, judge: David St. John

March, 2013 Poetry, “Temper,” MiPOesias

December, 2012 Full-length poetry manuscript,

S AL T F LA T, semi-finalist, Lexi Rudnitsky First Book Prize, Persea Press

June, 2012 Full-length poetry manuscript,

S AL T F LA T, finalist, honorable mention First/Second Book Prize, Tupelo Press, judge: Dan Beachy Quick

April, 2012 Essay, “Poetry, Politics, and the Polemic: Adrienne Rich as Guide,” Hayden’s Ferry Review

February, 2012 Full-length poetry manuscript,

S AL T F LA T, finalist First Book Contest, Slope Editions

February, 2012 Full-length poetry manuscript,

S AL T F LA T, finalist Yale Younger Poets Prize, Yale University Press, judge: Carl Phillips

July, 2011 Essay, “This Animal Weight, Body as Landscape, Landscape as Body,” Hayden’s Ferry Review

May, 2011 Poetry, “From the moonlight,” Cutbank

April, 2011 Poetry, “Shed,” “two resting blackbirds,” Hayden’s Ferry Review

April, 2011 Poetry, “Salt Flat, Winter Solstice,” Ellipses

## May, 2010 Poetry, “Tract (The Body),” “Tract (The Soul),” “Tract (XX Chromosome),” NANO Fiction

January, 2009 Poetry, “Clipped,” “Holy Matrimony,” “She Told Me, ‘Plant the Four Corners of Your Soles,’” Copper Nickel

## October, 2008 Poetry, “The Edge,” Red Rock Review

April, 2008 Poetry, “Places Real and Imagined,” Ecotone

## **Selected Literary and Artistic Activities**

July, 2013 **talis/madras**

 Installation and performance constructing a 300 lb. salt line between two redwood trees, Woodside, CA

July, 2013 **Djerassi Resident Artists’ Program**

Full residency fellowship based on poetic merit, Woodside, CA

September, 2012 **Vermont Studio Center**

Full residency fellowship based on poetic merit, Johnson, VT

September, 2010 **Wet Shards: Egg Island, Great Salt Lake** Installation of an off-the-page poem in collaboration with Laura McCoy for Brolly Arts’ Water Week, Rose Wagner Gallery

July 2, 2010 **Salt Flat: Bending Over Back Words**

Installation and performance working backwards into the origins of language

June 19, 2010 **4 Points around the Great Salt Lake**

Creation of “acts of beauty in wounded places” as part of the Global Earth Exchange and Radical Joy for Hard Times

April 30, 2010 **glyph**

Installation of an off-the-page poem as part of *Mirror Images: Great Salt Lake*,curated by Hikmet Loe

April 22-30, 2010 **1/11**

Pilgrimage, performance, and ephemeral installation around the south shore of the Great Salt Lake, from Lee Creek to Antelope Island, Saline, Lakeside, Carrington, Stansbury, and Black Rock

May 1-2, 2009 **Intention and Surrender: The Eared Grebe** and **Distillate: The Body**

Off-the-page poetry displayed in a gallery setting as part of *Steeped* forBrolly Arts’ Water Week

#### Readings

July 28, 2013 DRAP Annual Open House – Woodside, CA

September 8, 2012 Vermont Studio Center

April 22, 2011 *Ellipses* Debut – Westminster College

August 28, 2010 Poetry in the Garden – Trace’s

July 2, 2010 **Salt Flat: Bending Over Back Words** --

Vermont College of Fine Arts

September 16, 2009 City Art – Salt Lake Public Library

August 26, 2008 **Salt** -- Rozel Point, north shore of The Great Salt Lake

##### Professional Organizations

2013 – present Friends of the Great Salt Lake

2008 – present The Association of Writers and Writing Programs

2003 – 2010 National Education Association

**Volunteer Work**

2013 -- present Arts and Sciences Committee, Friends of the Great Salt Lake

2011 – 2012 Ching Farm and Animal Sanctuary

**Selected Honors and Awards**

2010 The Golden M Poetry Award, Montpelier, VT

2006 PRAXIS standardized test on educational theory, high score (99th percentile)

2004 Teacher of the Year, Brighton High School

2003 Distinguished Student in Secondary Education, Westminster College

**Technological Proficiency**

I am proficient in Microsoft Office, iWorks, InDesign, and the Adobe Suite.

I am comfortable working with research databases and social media.