

Alex Tretbar
Poet and Writer
alextretbar.com

Alex Tretbar is the author of the chapbook *Kansas City Gothic* (Broken Sleep, 2025). As a Writers for Readers Fellow with the Kansas City Public Library, he teaches free writing classes to the community and assists with the Maya Angelou Book Award. His poems and essays appear or are forthcoming in *Bat City Review*, *The Cincinnati Review*, *Colorado Review*, *Kenyon Review*, *Meridian*, *Narrative*, *Poetry Northwest*, *Sixth Finch*, *Southeast Review*, *Southern Humanities Review*, *The Threepenny Review*, and elsewhere. He is a poetry editor for *Bear Review*.

Education

Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing, The University of Missouri–Kansas City (2026)
Bachelor of Science, Journalism (News and Information), The University of Kansas (2012)
Bachelor of Arts, English (Traditional Literature), The University of Kansas (2012)
International Baccalaureate Diploma, Wichita East High School (2008)

Selected Work Experience

Proofreader, Pulse Legal Publications — Kansas City, MO — 2022-2023
Tutor: College, ABE, and GED; Central Oregon Community College — Madras, OR — 2018-2021
Legal Writer, Hudson Legal Group — Portland, OR — 2015-2016
Staff Writer, Bake Magazine — Kansas City, MO — 2013
Station Manager, KJHK 90.7 FM — Lawrence, KS — 2011-2012

Classes and Teaching Experience

Cover Letters: Writing Your Way Into a New Job or Apartment — Kansas City Public Library — Apr. 2024
The Modern Sonnet: Bending and Breaking a Tradition — Kansas City Public Library — Nov. 2023 and Mar. 2024
Prose Poetry: Exploring the Borderlands Between Two Genres — Heartland Book Festival — Oct. 2023
Deer Ridge Correctional Institution Creative Writing Program — Madras, OR — Apr. 2022 to June 2022
Adult Basic Education, GED, Teaching Assistant for Writing 85 and 121 — COCC — 2018-2021

Conference Presentations

"Poetry That We Hear and Poems That Hear Us: Reflecting on Difficult Topics Through Poetry" (with Steve Maack)
— Kansas Association of Teachers of English (KATE), Fall Annual Conference — Wichita, KS — Oct. 2022

Awards, Fellowships, and Residencies

2023-2025 Writers for Readers Fellow (Kansas City Public Library)
2024 *Kenyon Review* Writers Workshop (Poetry, June 2024)
2024 Best New Poets Nomination (*phoebe*)
2024 Pushcart Prize Nomination (*PEN America*)
2024 Pushcart Prize Nomination (*Coal City Review*)
2024 Best of the Net Nomination (*Cobra Milk*)
2023 Wolfson Poetry Chapbook Prize, Finalist (for *Kansas City Gothic*)
2022 *Snarl* Poetry Contest, Finalist
Society of Professional Journalists 2010 Region 7 Mark of Excellence Awards, Third Place, Radio Reporting

Publications

Chapbooks

Kansas City Gothic (Broken Sleep, 2025)

Selected Nonfiction

The Threepenny Review, "Chain of Memory," forthcoming
Kenyon Review, "Oculus Dexter," Apr. 2024
Buckman Journal, "Disappearance on Fifth Avenue," July 2023
Bat City Review, "Vanishing Point," March 2023

Selected Poetry

The Cincinnati Review, "Pantoum After Five Years in Prison," forthcoming
Narrative, "Self-Portrait with a Seashell and Dr. Caligari," "Multivalent Elegy, Three Days After Summer Solstice" and "Willamette Shipyard Blues," forthcoming
Southeast Review, "[16]," forthcoming
Poetry Online, "[And perhaps there is a bedroom in my bed]," forthcoming
Iron Horse Literary Review, "Crux" and "Interpellation," forthcoming
APARTMENT, "Song from an Alcove," forthcoming
Hunger Mountain, "Bifurcated Sonnet on Museum Etiquette," forthcoming
Ocean State Review, "Threshold" and excerpts from *Kansas City Gothic*, forthcoming
Iterant, "Hôtel Liminal," "Across the Country Strange" and "Dilation," forthcoming
The Penn Review, "Figure Drawing of a Friend Reading Rimbaud," forthcoming
The Spectacle, "[pruning the oblong image systems]," "[we do not know how the previously dead]" and "[conversation arose in every quadrant]," forthcoming
Birdcoat Quarterly, "[alone once, in a green room with a cellophane center]," forthcoming
Sixth Finch, "The Province of Clocks," April 2024
Colorado Review, "After Hours," March 2024
phoebe, "Date Night," Jan. 2024
Action, Spectacle, "Invitation to a Ceremony," "Living Alone and the Art of Preventative Maintenance" and "Birthday Party," Jan. 2024
Southern Humanities Review, "Book of Years," Dec. 2023
SAND, "Clairvoyance," Nov. 2023
Pithead Chapel, "Sturnella Neglecta," Nov. 2023
Meridian, "Thunder in the Index," Aug. 2023
ctrl + v, "43 Comments and Assorted Hyperlinks: A Digital Gravestone Rubbing," Aug. 2023
HAD, "Holiday Music" and "Dispatch from an Inbox," July 2023
Shō, "Ballad from a Subsidized Bedroom," June 2023
Cobra Milk, "Poisson d'avril," May 2023
ONE ART, "Physical Education" and "Museum of One," April 2023
Southeast Review, "Claustrophobe's Sonnet on Metempsychosis," March 2023
Poetry Northwest, "To the Addicts at the 19th and Burnside McDonald's," Feb. 2023

Fiction

Exacting Clam, "Bad Speed," forthcoming

Interviews

Full Stop, Interview with Ann Pedone, Oct. 2023

Anthologies

Placed: An Encyclopedia of Central Oregon, Vol. 1, "Now It Seems," Oct. 2020

Completed/Unpublished Manuscripts

"Physical Education" (full-length poetry collection)

"[hail]" (full-length poetry collection)

"Sturnella Neglecta" (poetry chapbook)

Work In Progress

"Oculus Dexter" (full-length essay collection)

Editorial Work

Bear Review, Editor, March 2024 to Present

Bear Review, Reader, Nov. 2023 to March 2024

Number One, Poetry Editor, Oct. 2023 to Present

Free Spirit (at Deer Ridge Correctional Institution), Co-Founder and Editor-in-Chief, 2020-2022