

## THE frost place

A permanent home and museum  
for poets and poetry



- **Gregory Pardlo Wins the 2015 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry**
- **Meet Poetry Seminar Faculty Gregory Pardlo**
- **Gregory Pardlo on the Poetry Workshop**
- **"Written by Himself" by Gregory Pardlo**
- **Apply Online for a Frost Place Poetry Program**

### **Gregory Pardlo, Poetry Seminar Faculty, Wins the 2015 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry**

**Congratulations to Gregory  
Pardlo for winning the 2015  
Pulitzer Prize for Poetry for his  
book,  
*Digest* (Four Way Books).**

The judges cited Pardlo's "clear-voiced poems that bring readers the



news from 21st Century America, rich with thought, ideas and histories public and private."

Learn more about how you can study poetry with Gregory Pardlo this summer at the *Poetry Seminar*, August 2 - 8, 2015.

Order *Digest* by Gregory Pardlo from Four Way Books [here](#).

---

**Gregory Pardlo** is the author of *Totem*, which received the APR/ Honickman Prize in 2007, and *Digest*, (Four Way Books, 2014). His poems have appeared in *American Poetry Review*, *Boston Review*, *The Nation*, *Ploughshares*, *Tin House*, as well as anthologies including *Angles of Ascent*, the Norton Anthology of Contemporary African American Poetry, and two editions of *Best American Poetry*. He is the recipient of a New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship and a fellowship for translation from the National Endowment for the Arts. An Associate Editor of *Callaloo*, he is currently a Teaching Fellow in Undergraduate Writing at Columbia University.

---

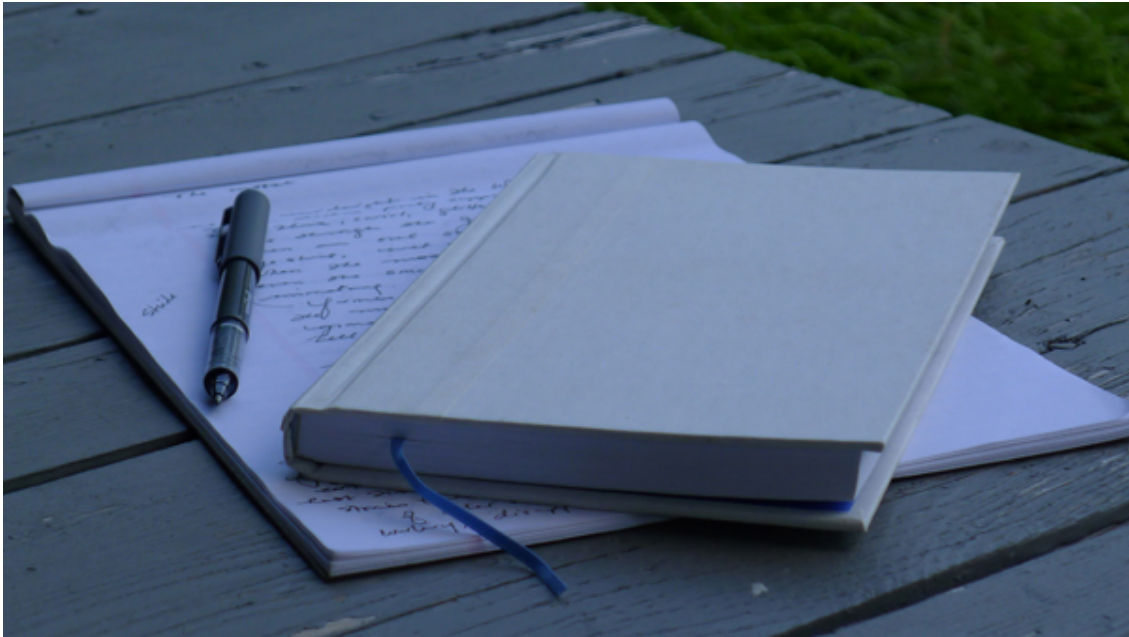
### **Gregory Pardlo on the Poetry Workshop**

"I feel quite privileged to share, through my students' generosity, those moments of discovery we call "breakthroughs." The metaphor conjures wrecking balls, and (for me at least) cartoon fruit-drink pitchers knocking down walls. These are the walls we construct to cordon off the thoughts that threaten our confidence in a predictable, routine world. These walls protect us so well we often forget they also limit our range of imagination. I want to help poets reveal these walls to themselves—revelation in the truest sense. To accomplish this, we start by identifying the poet's strengths, acknowledging what she already knows how to do well. Then we devise exercises to help her write in ways that may be unfamiliar, daunting or contrary to her conventional practice. Asking everyone to draw on underutilized personal resources in this

way produces a workshop environment in which participants challenge themselves and each other to reach beyond gimmicks and line edits for richer, more nuanced experiences of their work. I believe in the workshop mantra, “no surprise for the poet, no surprise for the reader.” I want participants to walk away from my workshop not only surprised by what they’ve been able to produce. I want us all to leave astonished.”

**Written by Himself**  
**by Gregory Pardlo**

I was born in minutes in a roadside kitchen a skillet  
whispering my name. I was born to rainwater and lye;  
I was born across the river where I  
was borrowed with clothespins, a harrow tooth,  
broadside sewn in my shoes. I returned, though  
it please you, through no fault of my own,  
pockets filled with coffee grounds and eggshells.  
I was born still and superstitious; I bore an unexpected burden.  
I gave birth, I gave blessing, I gave rise to suspicion.  
I was born abandoned outdoors in the heat-shaped air,  
air drifting like spirits and old windows.  
I was born a fraction and a cipher and a ledger entry;  
I was an index of first lines when I was born.  
I was born waist-deep stubborn in the water crying  
                    ain't I a woman and a brother I was born  
to this hall of mirrors, this horror story I was  
born with a prologue of references, pursued  
by mosquitoes and thieves, I was born passing  
off the problem of the twentieth century: I was born.  
I read minds before I could read fishes and loaves;  
I walked a piece of the way alone before I was born.



**The Frost Place Poetry Programs  
Come and Be Inspired.**

**Conference on Poetry and Teaching - June 21 - 25, 2015**

**Conference on Poetry - July 12 - 18, 2015**

**Poetry Seminar - August 2 - 8, 2015**

**Apply Today. Office: 603-823-5510 Email: [frost@frostplace.org](mailto:frost@frostplace.org)**

---

*Copyright © 2015 The Frost Place, All rights reserved.*

**Mailing address:**

The Frost Place  
PO Box 74  
Franconia, NH 03580

**Phone:** 603-823-5510

**Email:** [frost@frostplace.org](mailto:frost@frostplace.org)

**Web:** [www.frostplace.org](http://www.frostplace.org)

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

*MailChimp*

---