

Contemporary Poetry: the rivets, pivots and personalities

Poetry can be split in any number of dynamics

- according to attempting to make **beauty** or avoid beauty, make or avoid **meaning**
- according to the degree of **internal or external** performance, to inkblot with self or elicit an audience
- according to **responsibility** to which audiences, active or passive, in which community standards
- according to **momentum**, wanting to reinforce or change or observe
- according to how much it is raw or cooked, **preference** for level of polish
- according to what it the **unit of language**, of “natural” conversational or towards the smallest unit of the materials of compositions, the phonemes of sounds or the characters of text to new shapes
- according to **style** of craft (lyric, dirty concrete, haiku, confessional, sonnet, spoken word)
- according to the desire of the poet to embrace **clarity** or obliqueness, conscious or unconscious ink
- according to an attempt to resist **politics** or pretend social issues don't exist
- according to using poetic **devices** or avoids them
- according to amount of **editing** and reading and thinking and time put it
- according to the **needs** driving the writer and by role,

Which kind of role as writer do you play?

Community historian

- to record family or community history
- by retelling story of parents
 - by head-hopping into life of historical figures
 - by collecting bits of local history
- Why:** to perpetuate stories for the future

Explorer

- to mess around with ideas tools
- by dialoguing with other texts in English or other languages
 - by using form poetry, homophonic translation, flarf or appropriation
 - by remixing language, examining grammar's boundaries
- Why:** to see what happens and examine and build, or perhaps to change your own mind, ideas, behaviors

Thespian

- to get words to enact your emotion's story
- by story
 - by allegory of myth or myth-ing persons
 - by disrupting language to create sensation
- Why:** to reinforce, perpetuate, intensify or provoke a feeling

Moralist

- to preach the way the universe works
- in order to change someone else's mind
 - in order to convince and comfort oneself
 - in order to create/build or deconstruct the notion of nation or man or political system or social behavior or Christian or other constructs
- Why:** to cause an effect in emotion or behavior, to control

Escapist/Rebel

- I'm sorry, that role is off daydreaming of
- is not available for comment at the mome-
- Why:** from a belief that this is what poets do, or for reasons a therapist could explain ;)

Watchdog

- to pay attention to immediate world
- by being observant to details
 - by synthesizing information to arrive at new patterns for old data or reinforce old patterns with new data
- Why:** to meditate, slow down, find inner clarity, transcendence or truth or to direct attention