The poetry of LUCE BROCK-BROIDO is often a world that is open and aspirational or dark and thrombic. Author of four celebrated collections, Brock-Broido describes herself as “a compulsive practitioner of magical thinking,” adding that “poetry is this idea that happens between me and the world’s body.” Her most recent book, Sky, Flight, was a finalist for both the National Book Award and the National Book Critics Circle Award. Recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, among many other distinguished honors, Brock-Broido currently serves as the Director of Poetry in the School of the Arts at Columbia University. C.D. Wright has called her work “the most spirited imagist poetry both here and abroad.”

ELIZABETH ALEXANDER is a stalwart and prodigious voice on race, gender, politics, and motherhood. She is a founder of five universities, including Harvard and the University of Virginia, and is the recipient of the Academy of American Poets’ Jean Steen Award. Alexander is also a scholar and author of The Black Interior, a book of essays. She was the winner at the age of 36 of the first Poetry Center of the Poetry reading. Currently Chief of African American Studies for Yale University, she has, in short hand read the text “Peace for long — of the Day” at Obama’s presidential inauguration in 2009.

ANNE BOUTELLE, a principal in Austin’s groundbreaking figures of speech Theatre, mines from memory Four Quartets, a suite of poems often mentioned by T.S. Eliot’s greatest. First publication in 2001 with portraits—rarely granted from Eliot’s estate. Boutelle’s incision of Four Quartets affords an opportunity to re-invent themselves in 1,000 lines of poetry exploring humankind’s relationship with time and with experience from Eliot’s estate, Farrell’s recitation of From the Director

J oh n F a r r e l l’s W o r d s & B eethoven’s M u s i c T.S. Eliot’s Four Quartets and Ludwig van Beethoven’s String Quartet in A minor, Opus 132.

With astonishing grace and clarity, AMORINE BUTTELL’s poems in Beethoven: 75 Years to the Opus 132, composed and recited in December. The reading celebrates the release of The Ten, her fourth and most recent collection, which has been described by the Washington Post Book World as "an incredible mosaic of language, love and rage." Written Western Memory, "the blue flume also an afterbirth of stars and made of love like the invisible," a Brandeis member of Affirmation Press and the Cording Press at Smith in 2007-2008, Boulle writes notes that when she was young, romantic, and often literary. Raised from teaching since 2016, Anne Boulle found the Poetry Center at Smith.

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