Keynote:

F. Douglas Brown is the author of ICON, a new collection of poetry from Writ Large Press in 2018, and Zero to Three (University of Georgia, 2014), winner of the 2013 Cave Canem Poetry Prize selected by US Poet Laureate, Tracy K. Smith. He also co-authored with poet Geoffrey Davis, Begotten (URB Books, 2016), a chapbook of poetry as part of the Floodgate Poetry Series. Brown, an educator for over 20 years, currently teaches English and African American Poetry at Loyola High School of Los Angeles, an all-boys Jesuit school. He is both a Cave Canem and Kundiman fellow, and was selected by Poets & Writers as one of their ten notable Debut Poets of 2014. His poems have appeared in the Academy of American Poets, The PBS News Hour, The Virginia Quarterly (VQR), Bat City Review, The Chicago Quarterly Review (CQR), The Southern Humanities Review, The Sugar House Review, Cura Magazine, and Muzzle Magazine. He is co-founder and curator of un::fade::able - The Requiem for Sandra Bland, a quarterly reading series examining restorative justice through poetry as a means to address racism.

Headliners:

Kevin Clauther is the author of We Were Flying to Chicago: Stories. His stories have appeared in The Gettysburg Review, The Greensboro Review, Gulf Coast, The New Orleans Review, and Puerto Del Sol among other journals, and he has contributed essays to The Millions, NPR, Poets & Writers, Salon, and Tin House. He holds degrees from the University of Virginia and Iowa Writers’ Workshop and is the recipient of the Richard Yates Fiction Award and Gell Residency Award. He is an Assistant Professor at the University of Nebraska at Omaha Writer’s Workshop, where he is Program Coordinator of the MFA in Writing. He lives with his wife and two children in Omaha.
Born in Mexico and raised in Texas, Natalia Treviño learned English from Sesame Street’s Bert and Ernie. Natalia is the author of the new chapbook, VirginX (finalist open chapbook contest at Finishing Line Press). Other awards include the Alfredo Cisneros del Moral Award, the Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Award for poetry, and the Menada Literary Award at the Ditet E Naimit Poetry Festival in Macedonia. Her first book of poems, Lavando La Dirty Laundry, was a national and international awards finalist. Natalia’s work appears in Bordersenses, Borderlands, Voices de la Luna, The Taos Journal of Poetry and Art, Western Humanities Review, and several other journals and anthologies. Her novel in progress is an immigration story about an undocumented teenage mother who negotiates a life in the U.S. while separated from her daughter.

Kassandra Montag is an award-winning poet, fiction writer, and freelance medical journalist. Her work has appeared in journals and anthologies such as Midwestern Gothic, Nebraska Poetry, Prairie Schooner, and Mystery Weekly Magazine, among others. She holds an MA in English Literature and Creative Writing from Creighton University, and makes her home in Omaha, Nebraska. Her debut novel After the Flood will be published in September 2019 and will be translated into 17 languages.