



HERMINE PINSON

hdpins@wm.edu

Poetry Spotlight

Black History Month 2022

1. In what ways do you work with your communities?

I teach creative writing at William & Mary. Occasionally, I have had the opportunity to read my poetry in the community, most recently at the [Tack Family Lecture](#).

2. What is your most recent publication/project/performance?

In February of 2021, after writing a poem about the Odili Donald Odita exhibit at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Sydney and Frances Lewis Family Curator Valerie Cassel Oliver invited me to share my poem on Odili Donald Odita's *Procession*, on a panel with her and Dr. Carmenita Higgins (Dean of the School of Arts at Virginia Commonwealth University) about his exhibit. Cassel Oliver also included me in the summer of 2021 as part of John Sims' contribution to the *Dirty South* Exhibit at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts for which I wrote another poem, responding to a jazz version of *Dixie*. I'm also working with choreographer Frances and Edwin L. Cummings Professor of Dance Leah Glen and Steve Prince, Director of Engagement and Distinguished Artist in Residence at William & Mary.

3. Please name 1-3 books or works by Black poets/writers that you consider essential reading especially during these times that we are experiencing.

Terrance Hayes, [American Sonnets For My Past and Future Assassin](#)

Patricia Smith, [Incendiary Art](#)

Toi Derricotte, [I: New and Selected Poems](#)