



Supplemental Guide to 2018-2019 Open Contests for Contestants and Judges
“Musts and Shoulds” for December 2018

SAMUEL MARMADUKE MEMORIAL CONTEST (Open)

Deadline: December 15, 2018

Sponsor: Marcel Duclos

Theme: My Cell Phone

Form: Free Verse

Style: Naked Poetry

Line Limit: 40

MUSTS:

1. The poem must be open form (also known as free verse): poetry without any rules for construction-- so that content (including the theme: My Cell Phone) determines the shape and sound of the poem.
2. The poem must be concise and stripped to its bare essentials.
3. Writing Naked Poetry requires awareness of every single aspect of the poem, so that every aspect has a reason for being there.

SUGGESTIONS:

1. Edward Hirsch wrote that Naked Poetry seems to occur naturally rather than being artificial.
2. Allen Ginsberg: “Since art is merely and ultimately self-expressive, we conclude that the fullest art, the most individual, uninfluenced, unrepressed, uninhibited expression of art is true expression and the true art.”
3. Poets that wrote in this form: Stephen Berg and Robert Mezey, *The New Naked Poetry*; Jodie Hollander, *My Dark Horses* (She was a student of Mezey and is a Colorado poet); The Black Mountain Poets, The Beat Poetry, The New York School, The San Francisco Renaissance.

EXAMPLES:

Allen Ginsberg: *Kissass, My Sad Self*; Kenneth Rexroth: *Floating*; Jack Kerouac: *Black Poem*; Robert Creeley: *The Rain, The Door*; Charles Olson: *The Gulf of Maine*; Robert Duncan: *A Morning Letter*; Anne Waldman: *Cabin, A Phone Call from O'Hara*.

NOTE:

Open form, also known as *free verse*, describes poetry without any rules for construction. *Closed form*, also known as *fixed forms*, describes poetry with rules for construction, like a rhyme pattern, number of lines or syllables, or metered rhythm. Consider that slam poetry (an open form) has rhyme and rhythm, but it is organic, determined by the poet, and usually irregular-- not determined by predetermined rules. Also, avoid tanka and haiku for this contest, even though they are concise forms. Both are based on a number of lines and a syllable count, making them closed forms.