



Brandon Cesmat

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Background

Brandon Cesmat serves as president of California Poets in the Schools/CPITS, the largest artist- residency program in the United States. His book *Driven into the Shade* received a San Diego Book Award. Cesmat's poems have appeared in *ONTHEBUS*, *Teachers & Writers Collaborative*, *James River Review*, *Pemmican*, *ROADSpoe*try, *Homestead Review*, *California Quarterly*, *City Works* and *The San Diego Reader* and *The Best of Border Voices* anthology. *Red River Review* nominated Cesmat for the *Pushcart Prize*. Cesmat is the recipient of two Dorland Fellowships and first prize for *The Poetry of Music Anthology* (Palabra Productions). He has edited the anthology *Classrooms of Poets* and currently teaches at California State University San Marcos.

Teaching Approach

"Whatever joy readers receive from the poems on these pages comes from students and poet-teachers who took risks in the classroom, all the poets who dropped the point of their pencils or pens on empty sheets of paper or opened an unnamed document on their computer. The truth is that the moment of beginning is not always fun and that the completion of some poems devastates you rather than liberates you. But they make something happen. Even pain gives you a direction--we hope--toward someplace 'joyful'."

—from the *After Words to Classrooms of Poets*

Special Emphasis or Special Skills:

Poetry and music, poetry and place, diegetics

Brandon's References:

Jill Moses	Poet-Teacher	(760) 720-2840
Johnnierenee Nia Nelson	Poet-Teacher	(619) 479-4425
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