



## Border Arts Network Artist Spotlight

Telling the stories of the Border.

**Name**

**Robbi Nester**

**Email**

[rknester@gmail.com](mailto:rknester@gmail.com)

**State:** California

**City:** Lake Forrest



## Bio

Robbi Nester is a retired college educator and author of 4 books of poetry as well as an editor of 3 anthologies. Her website may be found at <http://www.robbinester.net>

## Interview

1) *How does your home state influence your art?*

I am influenced by places, climate, landscape, and environmental problems in CA. I was not born in CA though, and still frequently write about my birthplace, Philadelphia, PA.

2) *What inspires you to create?*

Many things. Artworks, personal experiences, newspaper articles, family history.

3) *What is your art? Literary? Music? Drawing, painting, sketching? Photography? Film? Or other?*

I write poetry, often ekphrastic, inspired by artwork, photographs, and other mediums.

4) *Which creators influence you?*

Many. I was originally drawn to the poetry of Stanley Kunitz and Elizabeth Bishop. These days I may learn most from writers like Ellen Bass and Dorianne Laux, but I read all kinds of poets as well as novels, and it all makes its mark on me.

5) *How is your art (or art in general) important to society in the border states??*

I come from a family of immigrants, and I frequently write about their earlier struggles in this country, coming to the US to a country that didn't necessarily welcome them at the time.

6) *Is there a specific purpose for your art?*

It depends on the particular piece.

7) *Are there other artists that you collaborate with, network, or recommend?*

I collaborate sometimes with artists and photographers. But I have also worked with editor Cati Porter, editor and chief of Poemeleon Journal, who has published two of my three anthologies as special issues of her journal.

8) *Do you have a "real" job or is your creative work your fulltime gig?*

I am retired from teaching. Currently, I host two virtual poetry series.

9) *Do you collaborate with other artists/creators?*

Yes, sometimes, as I have said above.

10) *Tell us about an upcoming project you are working on currently?*

I am not working on any particular project besides writing and organizing new collections and writing new poems.

## Additional info:

My website may be found at <http://www.robbinester.net>