

February 17 Workshop presented by Juan Morales

### **Lightning in a Bottle and a Time to Play with Forms**

With our poetic education and journeys, we are taught the importance of rhyme schemes, refrains, and meter with classic forms, such as sonnets, villanelles, and sestinas. Sometimes it can be an intimidating challenge or lightning in a bottle that helps us discover or solve puzzles. In this generative workshop, we will try our hand at poetic forms that may not immediately come to mind, including the ghazal, abecedarian, ballad, haibun, and more. We will look to diverse poets, such as Natalie Diaz, Patricia Smith, Dana Levin, Willie Perdomo, Kevin Young, and others for guidance and inspiration.

#### **Bio:**

Juan J. Morales is the son of an Ecuadorian mother and Puerto Rican father and grew up in Colorado. He is the author of four poetry collections, including *Friday and the Year That Followed*, *The Siren World*, and *The Handyman's Guide to End Times* (winner of the 2019 International Latino Book Award), and *Dream of the Bird Tattoo*, which was published by the University of New Mexico Press in 2025. Recent poems have appeared in *Crazyhorse*, *The Laurel Review*, *Breakbeats Vol. 4 LatiNEXT*, *Acentos Review*, *terrain.org*, *South Dakota Review*, *Sugar House Review*, and *Poetry*. Morales has received fellowships from CantoMundo, Macondo, Longleaf Writers Conference, and he has served as the editor/publisher of Pilgrimage Press. Juan is an Assistant Professor of English at Colorado College and lives in Pueblo, Colorado.