

Houston Philosophical Society Dinner and Lecture

Cohen House, Rice University

19 April 2018

6:00pm cocktails - 9:00pm close

At 8:00 pm President Hall called the meeting to order and welcomed all. He asked all Members to gather in sections to elect a representative to the Executive Committee. After the section head elections, the following Section Heads were elected:

A Frank Tittel

B Michael Epstein, M.D.

C Linda Marshall

D Mary Hankey

E Chip Place

F Ann McNaughton

All of the proposed new members and Executive Committee members were also approved, based on the ballots counted by Past President Pat Hughes.

Guests of members were then introduced.

President Randal Hall introduced Joseph Campana, Associate Professor of English at Rice University. Please see the attached Abstract for the Speaker's biography and program contents.

After questions and answers from the members, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

ABSTRACT

Historians delve into the archive, bringing the past to life through largely narrative techniques and argumentative strategies. In essence, the historian is, among other things, a story-teller. But what might a poet do in the archive? In this presentation Joseph Campana will read from and discuss his forthcoming collection of poems, *The Book of Life*, which draws on the iconic *Life* magazine

for structure and inspiration by using poetic techniques to reactivate an ecstatic experience of the past and to immerse the reader in the process by which events become history.

SPEAKER BIO



Joseph Campana is a poet, scholar, and arts critic. He is the author of *The Pain of Reformation: Spenser, Suffering and the Ethics of Masculinity* and dozens of essays on Renaissance literature and theater. He has published three volumes of poetry: *The Book of Faces*, *Natural Selections*, which won the Iowa Poetry Prize, and the forthcoming *The Book of Life*. His poems appear in *Poetry*, *Slate*, *Conjunctions*, *Michigan Quarterly Review*, and many other venues. He has received grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Breadloaf Writers' Conference, and the Houston Arts Alliance. His arts writing appears in *Houston Chronicle*, *CultureMap*, *Kenyon Review*, and elsewhere. He is Alan Dugald McKillop Associate Professor in the Department of English at Rice University.