

The Los Angeles Poetess who coined the term "pro-active", let's examine Eve Brandstein

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Los Angeles Poetess Eve Brandstein, The best of LA
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In the music world there are master musicians that have attained their lofty statuses by education and diligence. Though there might be a musician as dynamically talented as the next, there is yet a difference between the great performers and the skilled master. This separation is defined by a physical ability to make a biological crossover and utilize both the left and the right brain functionality.

As one musician can rip and shred upon his or her musical instrument there is still a possibility that he or she may not be able to tell you the name of the chord structured key that his or her tune is in. And, of the other master, he may be able to conduct an orchestra and be able to tell each musician of each variant in the group what voicing of a chord they should play, yet in his own performance, he is yet an average craftsman.

It is the master musician that can rip and shred and still, like the conductor, name any chord, it's voicing and variants right there, and off the top of his head. This is the master of an extremely rare breed. His use of both the creative as well as the logical thought is a characteristic that identifies this rare breed.

In Los Angeles, within the [LA Poetry \(http://www.examiner.com/topic/la-poetry/articles\)](http://www.examiner.com/topic/la-poetry/articles) scene, there have been few poets like [Eve \(http://www.evebrandsteinproductions.com/\)](http://www.evebrandsteinproductions.com/) [Brandstein \(http://www.evebrandsteinproductions.com/\)](http://www.evebrandsteinproductions.com/), With the talent and ability to produce a perfect piece of poetry or prose, she can also produce an event at a venue in town that will pull the most prominent talent in the city. She is the creator of the term "pro-active".

As a visual artist, her work bedazzles. As a poet she mesmerizes. As an organizer she stands alone, at the top.

To view the list of talents that have rose to her call, first of all the impression is mind boggling. From Robert Downy to Drew Barrymore to Wanda Coleman, the list of revered poets and celebrities that have agreed to make an appearance at an event of Eve Brandstein's reads like an alphabetized page from the

Census Bureau covering the entire Southern California region.

Now, as Eve Brandstein has expanded her unending passion to Art, she has produced some of the most dazzling pieces of artwork of mixed medias that are as interesting as her life in general. The LA Poetry Examiner had to ask Ms. Brandstein a few questions that I think we would all like to know:

Were you writing poetry during the times you speak of in your poem "Outside The Kettle of Fish?" when was that? (or - basically when did you begin writing poetry)

Eve:

I have been writing poetry as long as I remember that I could feel how precious the journey is. Life and love were always questions and issues and I used poetry to console myself as I grappled with my search for answers. Ah, the teenage heart and mind. Growing up in the Bronx, NY, I had a deep longing to get downtown and the vision of a world past the Grand Concourse which was 2 blocks away from my fifth floor walk up window seemed the ultimate goal and here I am across the continent watching the sun go down hours after it's dark back East. I like that.

What writers influenced your own work, and what writers inspire you today?

Eve:

I am a daughter of [Blake \(http://www.blakearchive.org/\)](http://www.blakearchive.org/), Browning, Whitman, Keroauc, Plath, Sexton and William Carlos Williams and a sister of Pink Floyd, Bob Dylan, John Lennon, Leonard Cohen, Jimmy Webb and Joni Mitchell

Which famous artists inspired your visual art work?

Eve:

Vermeer, Rembrandt, all the expressionists/impressionists including little known [Suzanne Valdon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suzanne_Valadon), [Duchamp](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suzanne_Valadon), Rauschenberg, Japanese art past present future, film – [Lynch](http://www.davidlynch.com/), [Scorcese](http://www.davidlynch.com/), Kubrick, all the Italians.

When blending your visual art with your spoken word, what mix of mediums brings you the most fulfilled sense of your personal expression?

Eve:

Mixed media which for me is using inks, my own photography, painting –mostly acrylics, printing with inks and transfer. I started out as a painter and still like to just do sketches with charcoals and pastels. But the sublime is combining words and images that help tell a story. I need there to be a narrative. It is part of my art and writing.

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When did you start sharing your written works at Poetry readings?

Eve:

I sometimes read in NY before I moved to LA, but not often and mostly open mikes. But I came out after taking a class with Jack Grapes. My first reading here was at Beyond Baroque and the second was a reading that Harry Northrup ran in a coffee house on Melrose. After I went to the Naropa Institute – The Jack Kerouac School of Disembodied Poetics for 3 summers I came back and started having salon readings around town with other poets and writers.

Back in the late '80's, early '90's, there was a strong poetry resurgence that Los Angeles experienced.

...how did the Poetry In Motion series come to be?

Eve:

I will give major credit to Helena Kallianiotis who had a private, very exclusive club that celebrities needed to be seen at in the mid – late 80's. Helena was a lover of poets, artists, actors and madmen. I first met her at her weekly Skateaway in Reseda and we became friends. She really like my poetry which she would have me read to her! She asked me to do a reading at her hip, “need to seen” club. I was wary about doing something I held sacred and secret in my life while engaged in my career in the entertainment industry.

I was hoping to keep these 2 lives apart. I don't feel that way at all now. It wasn't that I didn't respect both, but the worlds I traveled in judged the other strongly and I wanted to be in both worlds. I had a desire to be authentic and still be in the mainstream. Back then I restricted myself to thinking that I would be best to protect myself by separating these experiences.

But Helena insisted I meet this really cool, brilliant and beautiful poet, Michael Lally and consider teaming up with him. I was reluctant as I'm sure he was. He was quite established as a known poet and I was just emerging. But we met, we sniffed each other and then realized we were both working class/refugees, who knew the streets and had found a door on the West Coast. To mix it up a bit more, Helena introduced us to the "fabulous" Michael Des Barres. We formed The Temple Street Poets and started a weekly run until Helena's was closed by the fire marshalls. But before that we were poets and we were media folks in one room speaking about the times of our lives.

So we moved and we did becoming literally - Poetry in Motion. We hit several venues in LA. By then it was just Michael Lally and myself and after awhile we finally landed on Fairfax Avenue at Café Largo and remained there for several years. During the run of our weekly shows we were covered widely in the press. From the London Times, to the New York Times to national publications.

People came to hear poetry as if it were a rock concert. It was amazing! We were actually a success story. We even published a book *The Hollywood Review*, which was suppose to be a quarterly, but regretfully only had one issue. Some have said we were the spark that fueled the new wave of poetry that led to slams and other spoken word events to follow. When the time came to move on we did and the poets and the audience followed, even as far as NYC at [Tommy Tangs](http://www.tommytang.com/tommy/right.html) (<http://www.tommytang.com/tommy/right.html>) NY. For awhile in 1992 we did a weekly show in LA and a monthly version in NY. We came together again in 2004 with the support of Tommy and Sandi Tang in LA for a short 6 month run. And it's not over.

I'm about to start up another run of [Poetry In Motion LA](http://poetdelavega.wordpress.com/2010/09/09/poetry-in-motion/) (<http://poetdelavega.wordpress.com/2010/09/09/poetry-in-motion/>), this year at Beyond Baroque. I'm looking forward to a great future with a new model and adding the LA part to the name. I'm focused on other forms of spoken word and music as well as poetry in the future.

Who were some of the regular readers at The Poetry In Motion series?

Eve:

YOU! And of course [Hubert Selby Junior](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hubert_Selby,_Jr) (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hubert_Selby,_Jr) and here are some of the folks that read - SOME OF THOSE WHO HAVE READ AT POETRY IN MOTION IN LA AND NYC SINCE 1988: Akuyoe, [Karen Allen](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karen_Allen), (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karen_Allen) Chris Allport, Jo Anderson, Angelo "Fishbone Poet", [Susan Anspach](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Susan_Anspach) (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Susan_Anspach), Eric Avery, Eve Babitz, [Alec Baldwin, Steve Baldwin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stephen_Baldwin), (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stephen_Baldwin) Bara, Barbara Barg, [Drew Barrymore](http://www.drewbarrymore.com/), (<http://www.drewbarrymore.com/>) [John Barrymore](http://www.drewbarrymore.com/), (<http://www.drewbarrymore.com/>) [Justine Bateman](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000868/), (<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000868/>) [Anne Beatts](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anne_Beatts), (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anne_Beatts) Roxanne Beckford, Ed Begley Jr., [Gina Belafonte](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gina_Belafonte) (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gina_Belafonte), Stephen Bishop, [Max Blagg](http://www.maxblagg.net/) (<http://www.maxblagg.net/>),

Eve Brandstein, Josh Brolin, Julie Brown, Kale Browne, Bill Bumiller, Lynn Carey, Macdonald Carey, Robin Carr, Dennis Christopher, [Wanda Coleman](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wanda_Coleman), [Jeff Conaway](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wanda_Coleman), Patti D'Arbanville, David Darmstaedter, Yvonne de la Vega, Jane Delynn, Michael Des Barres, [Pamela Des Barres](http://www.pameladesbarres.com/), Lucy Deutsch, Anthony DiNovi, Robert Downey Jr., [David Ducozny](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Duchovny), [Caroline Ducrocq](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Duchovny), Carol Muske Dukes, Lisa Sdelstein, Zan Easley, Peter Elbling, Elaine Equi, Bob Flanagan, [Michael C. Ford](http://www.examiner.com/.../the-la-poetry-music-scene-birth-of-the-cool-here-la-with-bebop-beat-poet-michael-c-ford), [Meg](http://www.examiner.com/.../the-la-poetry-music-scene-birth-of-the-cool-here-la-with-bebop-beat-poet-michael-c-ford), Foster, Alan Garfield, Pleasant Gehman, Cindy Gibb, Tony Goodstone, [Jack Grapes](http://www.jackgrapes.com/grapes_approach.php), S.A. Griffin, Larry Hankin, Michael Harris, [Susan Hayden](http://www.examiner.com/.../la-poet-susan-hayden-speaks-on-love-loss-and-poetry-as-medicine), Howard Hessman, Robyn Hitchcock, Lauran Hoffman, Kene Holliday, Bob Holman, Season Hubley, Bruce Isaacson, Neil Israel, Def Jef, Tag Johnson, Richard Jordan, Tyrone Granderson Jones, Paul Kantner, [Terry Kirkman](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terry_Kirkman), Doug Knott, Jeff Kober, Michael Lally, Darrell Larson, Genevieve Laycock, Max Lewin, Mimi Lieber, Joel Lipman, Peri Lister, Phillip Littell, [Suzanne Lumis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suzanne_Lummis), [Jennifer Lynch](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jennifer_Lynch), [Lewis MacAdams](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jennifer_Lynch), Phoebe MacAdams, Mick Mancuso, Robbie Mangiardi, Lynn Manning, Leon Martell, Andrea Martin, Walter Martinez, [Keith Antar Mason](http://bombsite.com/issues/48/articles/1777), Seven MacDonald, Siobhan McDevitt, Merilene, [Miriam Mezzieres](http://www.myriam-mezieres.net/), Bill Mohr, Bill Mosley, [Lycia Naff](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lycia_Naff), Meri Nana-Ama Danquah, Elinor Nauen, [Judd Nelson](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Judd_Nelson), Ana Nicholas, [Harry Northrop](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry_Northrop), Robert Odom, [Michael O'Keefe](http://www.rickoverton.net/), [Rick Overton](http://www.rickoverton.net/), Raina Paris, Deborah Patino, P.C., Danny Peck, Linda Phillips, [Holly Prado](http://www.oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/kt3199q9f8/), Lisa Rafel, Susan Regeski, Annie Reiner, James Remar, Jamie Rose, [Jennifer Rubin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jennifer_Rubin), [Katey Sagal](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0005408/), Liz Sagal, Jerome Sala, [Hubert Selby Jr.](http://www.exitwounds.com/Hubert-Selby-Jr-2.htm), Suzanne Selby, Helen Shaver, [Ally Sheedy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ally_Sheedy), Craig Sheffer, Jack Skelly, P.J. Soles, [Harry Dean Stanton](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry_Dean_Stanton), Nathan Stein, Ladye Eugenia Stewart, Doug Steindorf, Sharon Stone, Austin Strauss, Tommy Swerdlow, Leslie Thayer, [Lisa Thayer](http://www.lisathayer.com/), Toledo, David Trinidad, [Eric Trules](http://www.ericrules.com/), Andrea Vaucher, [Martha Velez](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martha_Veléz), Sydney Walsh, Scott Wannberg, [Doug Warhit](http://www.dougwarhit.com/), Rex Wiener, Lotus Weinstock, Chuck E. Weiss, Carrie White, Ian Randall Wilson, Ken Wilson, [Mary Woronov](http://www.maryworonov.com/), Jenny Wright, [Grace Zabriskie](http://www.gracezabriskie.com/), Lisa Zane, Dweezil Zappa, Moon Zappa, David Zasloff, [Ron Zimmerman](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ron_Zimmerman) & Many More.

Are you organizing a reunion?

Eve:

More than a reunion - a renaissance and with some new features. The first show of [Poetry In Motion LA](#)

[will be Nov. 11 – Reunion of the Vets \(http://poetdelavega.wordpress.com/2010/09/09/poetry-in-motion/ - \)](http://poetdelavega.wordpress.com/2010/09/09/poetry-in-motion/) with Michael Des Barres, Pamela Des Barres, Anne Beatts, Rick Overton, Ty Granderson Jones, Michael C. Ford, Susan Hayden., Meri Danquah, Yvonne De LaVega, Anthony Di Novi, Pam Ward, Ron Zimmerman, Michael O'Keefe, Jamie Rose, S.A. Griffin, Doug Knott, Eric Trules, Jen Lynch and featured spoken word and musical artist - David Zasloff After that it will be a monthly series every 3rd Thursday.

What else is in the works?

Eve:

Exploring ways to integrate my poetry/prose and art. I'm doing a number spoken word events over the next few months Oct. 10 – Susan Hayden's **Library Girl reading series** at [The Ruskin Theater \(http://www.ruskingrouptheatre.com/ \)](http://www.ruskingrouptheatre.com/), /Oct. 16 - **Waiting For Jack@ Studio 1520 (http://studio1520.com/)** with LA poets reading the work of the Beats. This is a real amazing event that I'm producing with Rex Weiner, Michael C. Ford and John Densmore at Studio 1520 in S.M. On Oct. 17 Jewish Women's Theater, I'll be reading and showing some of my art . Oct. 22 @ The Hen House and Dec. 4 I have my art show with [TAG Gallery at Bergamont Station. \(http://www.taggallery.net/\)](http://www.taggallery.net/)

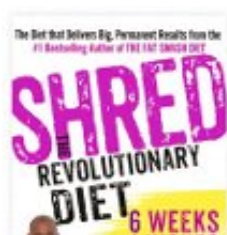
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The shred diet **(Health & Fitness)**



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Yvonne de la Vega, LA Poetry Examiner

LA Poet Yvonne de la Vega 's literary works embody the very spirit of the city. Her voice is one of social consciousness, compassion and humor, which often hails the beauty she finds in most every aspect of life. ...