

D. A. Powell



Born in Albany, Georgia, D. A. Powell earned an MA at Sonoma State University and an MFA at the Iowa Writers' Workshop. Powell is known for his syntactically inventive, longer eight- or ten-beat lines in poems that are often untitled. As a teacher at Sonoma State, he noticed that most of his students' poems were written to fit the demands of the page. His experiments with his students in writing on unexpected surfaces (such as candlesticks or rolls of toilet paper) led to his own breakthrough in "subverting the page": he turned a legal pad sideways and wrote the first poem for *Tea*. Powell explains that "by pulling the line longer, stretching it into a longer breath, I was giving a little bit more life to some people who had very short lives." Powell has also taught at Harvard University, Columbia University, and the University of San Francisco.