Black Queer Poetry

Since at least the Harlem Renaissance, LBGTQ African American writers have turned to poetry to express their experiences, politics, and desires. At the SNMA, there are more than 60 works of poetry as well as books about poetry, exploring topics such as feminism, racism, identity, community, sex, motherhood, and HIV/AIDS. Largely dating from the 1970s to the present, these texts include chapbooks, poetry collections, anthologies, memoirs, biographies, and academic studies.

A classic work of Black lesbian poetry.

A meditation on race, sexuality, and contemporary America.

Poems by Barbara Burford, Gabriela Pearse, Jackie Kay, and Grace Nichols.

A book of poetry about love and death.

A study of the life and work of the important “Black, lesbian, mother, warrior, poet.”

Poems about love and loss in a time of crisis, both national and personal.

A literary anthology of queer writing, including poetry, from across the Antilles.

A chapbook focused on Black gay desire.

A volume that spans five decades and comprises 868 poems by the famous Black poet.

A feminist book of delightful, sensuous, and passionate poems.

A book about exile, empowerment, loneliness, love, loss, and salvation.


An academic study of female eroticism in the poetry and prose of Caribbean women writers.

Poems about family, racism, feminism, friendship, and sadness.