

A Proposal

5 Nodes to Identify and Purge Toxic Poets from Your Life

KG INSTITUTE

If you knew a factory was dumping toxic waste into a river, would you go swimming in that river? The answer is obviously, no. So why not treat your mind and your art the same way? Why knowingly listen to poets who criticize work without reading it, who try to start movements against ideas they haven't even tried to understand?

These sad-sack "poets" just feel left out. Their movement was born at the intersection of getting no attention and not understanding art, but they feel confident enough in their disappointed ivy-league grad school rage they publish all their ignorance with impunity. On sites like Facebook, Twitter, the SF MOMA blog, you name it. Their goal? To attract negative attention and poison you, your comrades, and your art practice, against yourselves, against each other, and against all interesting art. They plaster social media with the depraved messages of an infantile poetry, their form is equivalent of slamming plastic trucks and dollies all around the floor while sitting in a an old diaper pissing, shitting and crying, imagining they are the revolution the way a 2 year old thinks they really are Mr. Rogers Neighbor. But to us, their news is old and their work even older, no less a copy than anything else accused of being a copy. they come bearing the art from the old hierarchical ideologies of the past.

Why continue to willingly expose ourselves to the toxic messages they transmit? These messages from the infantile quadrants of art, from so-called artists who do not read the work they criticize. Their practices are every bit as harmful as radiation, electromagnetic waves, or the chemicals dispersed into the atmosphere from an airplane's jet engines.

The first step towards moving on to a productive, intelligent life in poetry is clearing yourself of exposure to these ignorant, reactionary, toxic haters; just as you wouldn't swim or drink from the polluted river, so should you not attend to the ravings of these ignorant-ass, so-called thinkers. When your child tells you they hate you because you won't let them do beer bongs before school in the morning, do you take that seriously? No. You say, fuckin kid, someday she'll see. Same with these infantile "poets." Just smile at them and say "have a nice day at school" and move on to the serious work of your day.

But here's where it gets tough. Every toxic message about your art has a vector and that vector is a person, a "poet." I've spent my entire career as a Poet Consultant and I've learned a lot about organizing, strategizing, and planning around dealing with haters in poetry. I've taken my lessons and applied them to 5 Nodes that, in conjunction with the Institute I founded, will help us all learn to identify toxic poets and purge them from our attention. I am giving you access to these teachings now, for free.

NODE 1: Make a List

Make a list all the poets you interact with on any basis.

Ask yourself: how does each person make me feel? Angry? Happy? Stressed? At Peace?
Begin to make a list of all the toxic poet experiences in your life.
Name names, you'll need them later.

NODE 2: Analyze

Start to analyze these "poets." Document their every move online and IRL, and, most importantly, know the disease they bring into your artistic process. Treat their every word as a symptom. Learn to recognize it.

List interactions and feelings every day. You will call this your "reaction matrix." You may even begin assigning individual poets on a toxic/nurture axis.

NODE 3: Share

After awhile, you'll begin to commit to this treatment program and create toxic-poet-free zones by sharing your data with me, my Institute, and your local smart poet council through our online course, which I am offering to you, today, free, as my comrade.

Together we will work to expand our lists:

Where do the toxic poets live? What are their addresses?

Their daily schedule?

Are they a gun owner?

Do they have food allergies?

Create affirmations and slogans that can be shouted during and after exposure to a toxic poet. Membership in this course will also give you access to our printable and digital e-cards to keep track of the names, faces, and addresses of toxic poets and share them with others. With the guidance of my Institute, you will begin to purchase supplies and create maps of toxic poet homes, email addresses, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts, and share them with your local Council. Together we can re-draw maps, we can avoid the toxic air they create, and live to work another day—only this time even better, not only for ourselves, but to spite them, totally.

NODE 4: Counter

As a member of the Institute you'll begin to put into practice what you know, and all will solidify through these listing practices and chants. Soon you will take action to affect a cure. You will learn to do guided visualizations of the Poetry Cockroaches in your life: They have used their toxic poet nature to enrich themselves at your expense. But you know what you have been through to arrive at your aesthetic approach, you know there is a real analysis undergirding your poetics. Imagine your art crushing them like the bugs they are. Soon it will.

Node 5: Purge

After studying and learning to recognize the early warning signs of toxicity, you'll need to do some social media blocking. Block them all, and their kiss-ass, scardee-cat sympathizers. You'll become a part of a new, toxic-poet-free environment. You will not have to see their social media postings, attend readings of their sympathizers or even know that they are happening. Next time they wanna talk shit about your comrades, they will only be talking to themselves.

