

I came to poetry from the visual arts after discovering Pound, Eliot, and other moderns while at Rhode Island School of Design. In Pound's Cantos, I was attracted to the inclusive scope of the long poem, the sense of no boundaries. In Eliot, I found the high seriousness I expected of poetry. I was quickly drawn to Charles Olson's Maximus Poems, W. C. Williams's Paterson, Louis Zukofsky's "A," and others.

That kind of poetry was a revelation. It seemed to complement what I was attempting to do with images and paint, and I have done them together ever since. My MFA (in Art) thesis project at Southern Illinois University combined both. I have written steadily since 1960.

Books have been my training in poetry. I read everyone's poetry for the sense of the management of ideas, insights, for a unique mind at work that enlarges for me the lives and bodies we all share and how to think about them.

Further background available on my website: allanpeterson.net

