Poem Booth: Make Me Wanna Holler
Curated by Candace Nicholson

Oct 7, 2022 - Jan 21, 2023
Gallery Aferro Poem Booth
Installation
73 Market Street, Newark

Opening Reception
October 7th, 2022
6pm - 9pm

Gallery Hours
Wednesday - Saturday
12pm - 6pm
and by appointment

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The Poem Booth Project is Gallery Aferro’s newest permanent installation that features recorded collections of spoken word poetry especially curated by guest authors and lovers of the written word. The ongoing project combines experimental collaboration with the power of language by inviting poets, spoken word artists, and bards of every style and verse to share an audio recording of their written works in our 1960s-era refurbished phone booth located in the Main Gallery at 73 Market Street.

With the ability to hold a near infinite number of works thanks to the countless phone number combinations available, gallery visitors can enjoy listening to each poem by dialing a specific phone number on the keypad. The phone numbers available are shared via a list of poems within the booth, and in the future, will be collected and featured in a printed “phone book” so each curated collection can be easily accessed for years to come.
The Make Me Wanna Holler collection includes:

- Problematic by anduriña
- Baggy Magnum Madness by Devynity
- STOP TRIPPIN by Devynity
- Sestina Truck by Raymond Bally
- My Drunk Dad by Chris Bisram
- Last Summer in Puerto Rico by Benedicto Figueroa
- Things About Me by Katelyn Halpern
- Art Rising by Slangston Hughes
- Bright Privilege by Slangston Hughes
- Church Raffle by Kathy Kremins
- Crowd Piece by Alexander Kusztyk
- Ode to the Office Window of My Therapist’s Trauma Dungeon by Eros Livieratos
- John Prine’s Mailman Era by Meg Lubey
- The 126 by Buttered Roll
- The Perils of Being a Pedestrian and a Poet, Simultaneously or I Should Move to the Suburbs by Buttered Roll
- Languish by Danny Shot

Showcasing 13 unique voices across local, national and international poetry scenes, Make Me Wanna Holler brings together sculptors of the written word as they dissect, scrub and polish the concept of laughing through the pain. With humor, wit and anecdotal sarcasm, these talented bards will connect with you in ways that only sound and performance art can.

In this collection, each poet shares their sometimes subtle, oftentimes striking words on healing, hiding or harnessing tragedy with the salve of comedy. Delivered via the conduit of Gallery Aferro’s ongoing Poem Booth Project, the works in this exhibition reveal the many ways in which we speak volumes while smiling through our tears. The intention of Make Me Wanna Holler is to invite the listener to decide when the melancholy ends and the laughter begins.

Curated by writer, storyteller and gallery director Candace Nicholson, this collection embodies the focus of the Midwest native’s desire to explore the intersection of artistic expression, holistic health and community empowerment. A lover of language and literature, she spends her day helping to enrich the lives of artists, entrepreneurs and nonprofits through creative and conscientious content writing, but by night, she can be found penning articles, essays and blog posts about art, culture and all things bohemian.