What is a Cinepoem?

The definition of a cinepoem is a bit of a debate. Here at Highland Park Poetry we want to approach it with a broad interpretation. Cinepoems, at their beginning, were known to be silent movie clips, thereby making the picture the most important feature. We understand a picture can be poetry. Who wouldn’t call Ansel Adams one of the great poets?

But today’s cinepoems usually incorporate the reading of a poem (for example, Ladonna Witmer’s YouTube videos). Because part of our mission is to encourage poetry writing, we have made it a rule that at least one word, either text or audible, must be included in each presentation. And even though there are many great poets out there that we encourage reading, we want these works to be original. This is an opportunity to showcase your poetic creativity.

Look for examples of cinepoems on YouTube. You can even find Man Ray’s direction of the L’Étoile de Mer by Robert Desnos if you search for it. This work is considered a cinepoem and was made in 1928.

We chose not to make this a formal contest as we welcome all experience levels to give this a try. For the final showcase we will present up to one hour of video chosen from submissions. We are looking for artistic, experimental and challenging video, a poetic eye so-to-speak. As you will be making your submission through a private link on YouTube, if your piece is not chosen to be in the final showcase, you can still make the link available to everyone through a list we will provide on showcase night, if you so choose.

The rules and entry specs follow...