master piece

in the future
when i am more skilled
i write the poem
and it only has one word
and that word is unpronounceable
but a word is a sound that shares meaning
therefore this one word i've written
is the sound of my breath
separating from loneliness in its escape from bondage
which
from a distance
is merely
the practice of my chest
i spell the word by my fingers almost touching your lips
a hover
a hummingbird
as much still as buzz

i can't think of any other way to ask you
to please say it back to me

Donny Jackson

A staple of the poetry community, Donny Jackson also holds a doctorate in clinical psychology, and is a director and multiple Emmy-winning documentary television producer. As a spoken word artist, Donny has performed and featured throughout North America, including at the legendary Nuyorican Poets Café, and venues in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Detroit, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, California, and Toronto. Donny has released poetry albums for the past three years, *boy, girl,* and, *he / him.* His debut volume of poetry, *boy*, was published by Silver Star Laboratory in February 2020, and his most recent book, *toward the sun: love haiku,* was released in February 2024.

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