

CHECK POINT RITA ANDERSON JULY 2019

I am an award-winning female poet & playwright. I have two graduate degrees in Creative Writing (MFA Poetry, MA Playwriting), and I was Poetry Editor of *Ellipsis*, the annual literary journal at the University of New Orleans. My work has appeared in 100 publications and both of my poetry books--*The Entropy of Rocketman* (Finishing Line Press) and *Watched Pots (A Lovesong to Motherhood)*--were nominated for the Pushcart Prize. At my July residency, I look forward to having time to concentrate on birthing a new idea!

As a poet, I love language and my poetics reflects this fascination with words, their double-meanings, and the word play they invite, but my aesthetic is also influenced by dialogue and the American idiom, as well as the rich metaphor of dreams. And always, I write from a female perspective and, as such, content is inherently political, as in my poem about Frida Kahlo, "The Body Politic." During my residency at Can Serrat, I worked on a new poetry MS with the working title, *The Orrery*. While the creative process can be mysterious, I have been writing poetry for 20 years and I can always tell when I am "with poetry" (to borrow from Edward Albee's expression that he always wrote when he was "with play") in a fertile sense, and the concept for this MS came to me in October when I was at the museum, studying the antiquated "orreries" (models of the solar system). All of the poems in this manuscript-in-development will "orbit" around that idea and fit under the umbrella of different kinds of "orreries" or systems.