

# EVERYONE'S A WRITER

## Writers of Ypsilanti: Linette Lao



Linette Lao is a graphic designer and lecturer in creative writing at EMU. She co-created a zine called “Crimewave,” and made the zines “Slippery Shanty,” and “Bag of Walleye.”

### What do you write?

“I write poems and I create zines. And sometimes I do a little bit of writing for work. I am a graphic designer, and I think a lot about visual and written language and the space in between. I really love that I write in a bunch of different directions.”

### Why do you write?

“I write because I love the idea of language as an invention. It’s such an amazing pleasure spending time with language and talking about ideas. Language isn’t contained to a page; it’s a really tactile and visceral thing. When I think about writing, I don’t think only about words. I think about images, sounds, absences—all of that is how we read through our bodies.”

### What is the most memorable thing you have written?

“One thing that was so satisfying to me was a little comic I made. I did one after my first baby, and then I did one after my second child was born. [Having a baby] was an experience that words fell short of. I was creating impressionistic images, not just pictures of things, and I was able to communicate something that was complicated and bodily and really important. I loved making that comic because it engaged everything that I love about considering language and images.”