

## GENRE FUSION     Christy Sheffield Sanford

I chose the name Genre Fusion for my work created from 1986. “The Romance of Citrus (Sectional Version)” was my first clear use of fusion. The term was used for 1960s jazz, although that was not my guiding star. Many felt the impulse to join genres.

Terms such as hybrid, mixed genre, mashup, flash fiction, prose poetry, inter-textual work, experimental, and braided poetry have been used. I chose fusion. Hybrid is Submittable’s choice, which is fine. I wrote an essay published on my homepage called Genre Fusion in 1998.

The essay gives a rationale for the practice and connects it to contemporary writers and the computer and the web. To revise the piece, I would expand, include references to Stéphane Mallarmé and Anne Carson, refine the section on science and philosophy. The explanations stand. I hope they are helpful.

What is the essence of poetry and of fiction? Once you decide on variables, begin to experiment.

You may or may not have a successful new genre. I wanted to know more about why my choices worked, and I began to study and research, and my MA thesis highlights the topic. Fusion prepares the way for Interdisciplinary work, for Image-Text and joining Art and Writing.

Some are using the term Transdisciplinary. There are many ways of describing what is happening now. I wasn’t alone in joining genres, and I’m not alone now in joining disciplines. I want dance to be included in my practice. The computer and the web have profoundly influenced literature and the arts.

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- "The Romance of Citrus (Sectional Version)." Toledo Poets Center, Broadside 11x30, 1989.
- "The Romance of Citrus (Sectional Version)." AMERICAN POETRY SINCE 1970: UP LATE, Four Walls Eight Windows, Andrei Codrescu, Editor, 1987.
- "The Romance of Citrus (Sectional Version)." SLIPSTREAM (taped recording) #2, Niagara Falls, NY, 1988.
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