

## The Undercommons on Michael McClure

May 25, 2020 Memorial Day via Zoom

**Michael McClure** (October 20, 1932 – May 4, 2020) was an American [poet](#), [playwright](#), [songwriter](#), and [novelist](#). After moving to [San Francisco](#) as a young man, he found fame as one of the 5 poets (including [Allen Ginsberg](#)) who read at the famous [San Francisco Six Gallery reading](#) in 1955, which was rendered in barely fictionalized terms in [Jack Kerouac's \*The Dharma Bums\*](#). He soon became a key member of the [Beat Generation](#) and is immortalized as "Pat McLearn" in Kerouac's [Big Sur](#).

He attended the [Municipal University of Wichita](#) (1951–1953), the [University of Arizona](#) (1953-1954) & [San Francisco State College](#) (B.A., 1955)<sup>[1][2]</sup> His first book of poetry, *Passage*, was published in 1956 by small press publisher [Jonathan Williams](#).<sup>[3]</sup>... [Stan Brakhage](#), friend of McClure, stated in the [Chicago Review](#) that:

"McClure always, and more and more as he grows older, gives his reader access to the verbal impulses of his whole body's thought (as distinct from simply and only brain-think, as it is with most who write). He invents a form for the cellular messages of his, a form which will feel as if it were organic on the page; and he sticks with it across his life ..."<sup>[4]</sup>

How I met Michael...

*Touching the Edge* (back cover)

Read two Dharma Devotions.

Playwright: *The Beard, Josephine the Mouse Singer*. (JtMS is a treatise on Projective Verse.)

Ghost Tantras

Meat Science Essays

Dolphin Skull (see essay *Inside Dolphin Skull* )

Projective Verse: The Spiritual Legacy of the Beat Generation

<https://www.mdpi.com/2076-0787/7/4/102/htm>