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**SEATTLE ARTS & LECTURES ANNOUNCES 2021/22 YOUTH
POET LAUREATE ZINNIA HANSEN'S BOOK RELEASE**
*A reading celebrating Zinnia Hansen and the 2022/23 Youth
Poet Laureate Cohort took place on Saturday, May 28 at 11
a.m. at Northwest Folklife Festival*

Seattle, WA—JUNE 14, 2022: [Seattle Arts & Lectures](#) (SAL) is thrilled to announce the release of *Spikenard*, the first collection of poetry by the 2021/22 Seattle Youth Poet Laureate, Zinnia Hansen, published by [Poetry NW Editions](#). At an in-person event that was part of the [2022 Folklife Festival](#), Hansen read from her new book alongside the 2022/23 Youth Poet Laureate (YPL) Cohort Members.

Hansen became the Seattle Youth Poet Laureate in spring of 2021—a time of deep reflection and careful transformation. Youth Poet Laureate Mentors Laura Da' and Arianne True guided Hansen through the process of publishing, drawing from their own experiences. Her poetry collection, *Spikenard*, invites us to unearth the holiness of our rituals, and questions how, why, and to whom we pray. Love emerges as central to this work, just as the rose emerges from the moon in the cover art by the author's grandmother, Toni Ann Rust.

Zinnia Hansen is a poet and essayist from the Pacific Northwest, studying at the University of Washington. Her work has been published in various magazines and online publications, including *Rattle*. She was a finalist in the *New York Times* Personal Narrative Contest and part of the Hugo House Young Poet's Cohort.

Washington State Poet Laureate, Rena Priest, writes, “Light on light on

light... burning beautifully.' Zinnia Hansen makes a shining debut with this luminous collection, a potent distillation of 'every beautiful thought at once.'”

Spikenard is currently available to order or purchase. To order, please visit lectures.org.

Youth Poet Laureate 2021/22 Mentors

Laura Da' is a poet and teacher. A lifetime resident of the Pacific Northwest, Da' studied creative writing at the University of Washington and the Institute of American Indian Arts. She is Eastern Shawnee. Her first book, *Tributaries*, was published by the University of Arizona Press and won a 2016 American Book Award. Da' has held residencies at the Richard Hugo House, Tin House, and Jack Straw. Her newest book, *Instruments of the True Measure*, is the winner of the Washington State Book Award. Da' lives near Seattle with her husband and son.

Arienne True (Choctaw, Chickasaw) is a queer poet and folk artist from Seattle. She teaches and mentors youth poets around Puget Sound and moonlights as a copyeditor. True has received fellowships from Jack Straw, the Hugo House, and Artist Trust, and is a proud alum of Hedgebrook and of the MFA program at the Institute of American Indian Arts. She is currently the Seattle Repertory Theater's first Native Artist-in-Residence.

Photos and interviews with the author are available upon request.

About the YPL Program: The Seattle Youth Poet Laureate (YPL) program aims to identify youth writers and leaders committed to poetry, performance, civic and community engagement, education, and equity across the Puget Sound region, and is a partner of the National Youth Poet Laureate Program, an initiative of Urban Word. For more information on the YPL, please visit <https://lectures.org/youth-programs/youth-poet-laureate/>.

About the WITS Program: Seattle Arts & Lectures' [Writers in the Schools](#) (WITS) program brings professional writers to public school classrooms for extended creative writing residencies. Founded in 1994, the program has served over 100,000 students throughout the Puget Sound Region. WITS aims to elevate the self-expression of all students as they discover and develop their authentic writing and performance voices. Through WITS, students become authors of their own lives.

About Seattle Arts & Lectures: Founded in 1987, Seattle Arts & Lectures cultivates transformative experiences through story and language with readers and writers of all generations. SAL's programs include the Literary Arts Series, Community Curate Series: Sasha LaPoint Presents, Encore Series, Poetry Series, SAL Presents, Local Voices, Summer Book Bingo, the Youth Poet Laureate (YPL) program, and Writers in the Schools (WITS). For more information about SAL, visit lectures.org.

About Poetry NW Editions: [Poetry NW Editions](#) grows out of a deep and vital literary tradition. For sixty years, they've published one of the country's finest poetry magazines, presenting northwest writers to a national audience and an expanding roster of poets from around the globe to audiences in the Northwest and beyond. As the publishing industry has changed, so have we. In fall 2018, they added book publishing to the platforms—print and digital—that showcase the imaginative values of the *Poetry Northwest* community for readers everywhere.

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