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**SEATTLE ARTS & LECTURES ANNOUNCES 2022/23 YOUTH POET
LAUREATE SAH PHAM'S BOOK RELEASE**

***A reading celebrating Sah Pham and the 2022/23 Youth Poetry Fellows will
take place on Tuesday, June 13th at 7p.m. at Third Place Books Seward
Park***

Seattle, WA—May 31, 2023: [Seattle Arts & Lectures](#) (SAL) is thrilled to announce the release of *LOVELIKE*, a debut collection of poetry by the 2022/23 Seattle Youth Poet Laureate, [Sah Pham](#). Published by [Poetry NW Editions](#), *LOVELIKE* is 8th in the series of Seattle Youth Poet Laureate books.

Pham will read from her new book alongside three 22/2023 Youth Poetry Fellows at Third Place Books Seward Park. At the reading, there will be a ceremonial passing of the laurel to Mateo Acuña, who is the incoming 2023/24 Seattle Youth Poet Laureate. We will also welcome and celebrate the nine other 23/2024 fellows. [This event is free and open to the public.](#)

Mateo Acuña (he/him) is a Peruvian-American artist, composer and writer from Auburn, Washington. He is the 2023-2024 Seattle Youth Poet Laureate. He is currently a sophomore at Pacific Lutheran University pursuing a customized major in Art, Communications, English, Music and Theater. He writes across the mediums of creative nonfiction, fiction and poetry, as well as for stage and screen. As the Seattle Youth Poet Laureate, his focus will be on making poetry more accessible in education and using his platform to spread beauty, love, and raise awareness of the Latino and transgender experience.

Pham has served as the Seattle Youth Poet Laureate since the spring of 2022, and in that time has performed her original poetry at numerous events across the Puget Sound Region in addition to writing her book. Youth Poetry Fellowship Mentors, [Arianne True](#) and [Sasha LaPointe](#), supported Pham through the process of writing and publishing by drawing on their own experiences as professional poets.

Sah, also known as Sarah, Pham is a Vietnamese American Canadian writer and creative. Her poetry has been featured in *Seattle's Child*, KUOW 1340 AM Radio, and *The University of Washington's The Monologues*. She is the founder and host of *Poemcast*, a poetry podcast at The Daily UW. She has served as Youth Ambassador for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Advanced Producer at *RadioActive Youth Media*, and Corbett Scholar at the University of British Columbia. She is an alumna of the University of Washington.

[Clara Olivo](#), author of *The Whisper, The Storm and the Light in Between*, writes, "In her debut collection, *LOVELIKE*, Sah Pham takes you on a journey of love beyond borders and dreams. Sah beautifully speaks to the tragedies of separation and longing for connection to family and home. Her interpersonal struggles with grief breakthrough the pages with such force, each poem will leave you breathless. Tender, powerful and overflowing with hope, *LOVELIKE* is a collection for every child of immigrants dancing on the fine line of their hyphenated existence and a must-read for anyone in between."

Youth Poetry Fellowship 2022/23 Mentors

Arianne True (Choctaw, Chickasaw) is a queer poet and teaching artist from Seattle, and has spent most of her work time working with youth. She's received fellowships and residencies from Jack Straw, the Hugo House, Artist Trust, and the Seattle Repertory Theater, and is a proud alum of Hedgebrook and of the MFA program at the Institute of American Indian Arts. She lives in Tacoma with her cat. Arianne is the 2023-2025 Washington State Poet Laureate.

Sasha taqwšəblu LaPointe is the author of *Rose Quartz*. She is from the Upper Skagit and Nooksack Indian Tribes. Native to the Pacific Northwest, she draws inspiration from her coastal heritage as well as her life in the city. She is the author of the critically acclaimed memoir *Red Paint*, and holds a double MFA in creative nonfiction and poetry from the Institute of American Indian Arts. Her work has appeared in *The Rumpus*, *Yellow Medicine Review*, *Hunger Mountain*, and elsewhere. She lives in Tacoma, Washington.

Photos and interviews with the Youth Poetry Fellowship Mentors are available upon request.

About the YPF Program: The Seattle Youth Poetry Fellowship (YPF) 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 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 Curated Series, Encore Series, Poetry Series, SAL Presents, Local Voices, Summer Book Bingo, the Youth Poetry Fellowship (YPF) 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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