

Event Title: *They Rise Like a Wave: An Anthology of Asian American Women Poets*

Event Description:

Blue Oak Press celebrates the publication of *They Rise Like a Wave: An Anthology of Asian American Women Poets*, which explores the depth and diversity of contemporary work by Asian American women and non-binary poets. It provides an artifact of the range of responses to both personal and political forces, including the Trump presidency, the COVID pandemic, and the recent rise in anti-Asian violence. Panelists will speak to the evolving stakes of what it means to write as an Asian American poet.

Event Category: Poetry craft & criticism

Event Organizer & Moderator:

Christine Kitano: Christine Kitano is co-editor of *They Rise Like a Wave: An Anthology of Asian American Women Poets* (Blue Oak Press) and the author of two collections of poetry, most recently *Sky Country* (BOA Editions). She teaches poetry and Asian American literature at Stony Brook University.

Event Participants:

Sarah Audsley: Sarah Audsley—an adoptee born in South Korea and raised in rural Vermont—is a graduate of the MFA Program for Writers at Warren Wilson College and a member of The Starlings Collective. She lives and works in Johnson, VT where she is the Writing Program Manager at Vermont Studio Center.

Manahil Bandukwala: Manahil Bandukwala is a writer and visual artist. She works as Coordinating Editor for *Arc Poetry Magazine*, and is Digital Content Editor for *Canthius*. She is a member of Ottawa-based collaborative writing group VII. Her debut poetry collection is *MONUMENT*, out with Brick Books in 2022.

Alycia Pirmohamed: Alycia Pirmohamed is a Canadian-born poet based in Scotland and the author of *Another Way to Split Water* (YesYes Books). She received an MFA from the University of Oregon, a PhD from the University of Edinburgh, and she currently teaches on the MSt. Creative Writing at the University of Cambridge.

CE Shue: CE Shue is the author of *Bridge of Knots*, chosen by Matthew Salesses for the Gold Line Press Fiction Award. She earned an MFA from the University of San Francisco, where she was awarded the Poetry Scholarship, and she has received grants from the Provincetown Fine Arts Workshop and the Vermont Studio Center. A Kundiman Fellow, she was on the board of Bay Area Generations, a literary reading series that paired writers from different generations to read together.

Paul Tran: Paul Tran is the author of the debut poetry collection, *All the Flowers Kneeling*, from Penguin in the US and the UK. They are an Assistant Professor of English and Asian American Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Event Agenda:

The moderator will begin by welcoming attendees, providing a brief background of the editorial impetus behind the anthology (including reading excerpts from the introduction), and introducing the panelists whose work is included in the anthology. The moderator will introduce each panelist and ask them to read their poems from the anthology. The moderator will then open up discussion and invite the panelists to speak to how they see their work contributing to the Asian American poetic tradition. The panel will end with a ten-to-fifteen minute audience Q&A.

Moderator Questions

- 1) Can you speak to how you feel about the label “Asian American poet”? Does it feel liberating, constricting, or somewhere in between?
- 2) How would you begin to define the Asian American poetic tradition or an Asian American poetics?
- 3) You agreed to having your work included in *They Rise Like a Wave*. How do you envision the importance of such an anthology? (for Alycia: Why did you agree to take on this project? Can you speak to some of the challenges and/or triumphs of working on this project?)