



Willow Books is pleased to announce the winners of the Willow Books Literature Awards. The judges were Reginald Dwayne Betts and Remica Bingham-Risher.



Grand Prize for **Prose: *The Lava Never Sleeps: A Honolulu Memoir* by Loreen Lilyn Lee**, Seattle, WA
Currently tutoring English and writing at North Seattle College, Loreen Lilyn Lee is a Seattle writer fascinated by topics of personal and cultural identity and how we are shaped into becoming who we are. She has been shaped by three cultures: Chinese (ethnicity), American (nationality), and Hawaiian (nativity). Awards include fellowships for a Hedgebrook residency and the year-long Jack Straw Writers Program. Loreen has read in numerous public venues in Seattle and Portland and was included in *Listen To Your Mother*, produced in 41 cities in 2016.

Grand Prize for **Poetry: *Where William Walked* by Vernita Hall**, Philadelphia, PA

Vernita Hall's *Where William Walked* won the 2017 Robert Creeley Prize for finalists. Hall placed second in *American Literary Review's* Creative Nonfiction Contest, and second runner-up for the Los Angeles Review Nonfiction Award. Poetry and essays appear or are forthcoming in numerous journals, including *Atlanta Review*, *Philadelphia Stories*, *Referential*, *Mezzo Cammin*, *Canary*, *African American Review*, and anthologies *Forgotten Women* (Grayson Books), *Not Our President* (Third World Press), *Dear America: Reflections on Race* (Geeky Press), *Boundaries and Borders* (Women of Color), and *Collateral Damage* (Pirene's Fountain). A LaSalle University alumna, she holds an MFA in Creative Writing from Rosemont College and serves on the poetry review board of *Philadelphia Stories*. *Where William Walked* was inspired in part by W(illiam) E.B. Du Bois's 1899 sociological study *The Philadelphia Negro*. With the goal of historic preservation and education, the poems relate stories and reflections about key persons—primarily of color—and signal events with connections to Philadelphia, past and present.



Editor's Choice: *Inlay with Nacre: The Names of Forgotten Women* by Cindy Williams Gutiérrez, Oregon City, OR

Poet-dramatist Cindy Williams Gutiérrez draws inspiration from the silent and silenced voices of history and herstory. A recipient of the 2017 Oregon Book Award for Drama and of the inaugural Oregon Literary Fellowship for Writers of Color in 2016, Cindy was selected by Poets & Writers Magazine as a 2014 Notable Debut Poet. Her poetry collection, *the small claim of bones* (Bilingual Press), won second place in the 2015 International Latino Book Awards. Her poems have appeared in *Borderlands*, *Calyx*, *Harvard's Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*, the *Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México's Periódico de poesía*, *Portland Review*, *Quiddity*, and *ZYZZYVA*, and have been anthologized in *Basta: 100+ Latinas Against Gender Violence* (University of Nevada-Reno) and *Raising Lilly Ledbetter: Women Poets Occupy the Workspace* (Lost Horse Press). She has performed her Aztec-inspired poems accompanied by pre-Columbian music at Northwest colleges, museums, and libraries through Humanities Washington Inquiring Mind series. A founder of Los Porteños, Portland's Latino writers' collective, Cindy has also served as Board President of Milagro Theatre. Cindy is the founder of Grupo de '08, a Lorca-inspired, collaborative-artists' salon featuring Northwest literary, visual, and performing artists.

Willow Books is the flagship imprint of Aquarius Press. The **Willow Books Literature Awards** recognize literary excellence in prose and poetry by writers of color. Grand prize winners receive \$1,000, publication and a sponsored reading. Finalists selected for Editor's Choice receive publication. For more about the literature awards, please visit www.aquariuspress.com. Submittable.com/submit