

L.J. SYSKO

BIO (305 WORDS) – for event introductions

L.J. Sysko is the author of two books of poems, including her debut full-length collection *THE DAUGHTER OF MAN* (released in April '23, University of Arkansas Press), which was the 2023 Miller Williams Poetry Series first finalist selected by Patricia Smith—a book which poet Ross Gay called “goddam funny” and “a clinic in irony”—and *BATTLEDORE*, a chapbook about early motherhood that was published in 2017 by Finishing Line Press. Sysko’s poems have been anthologized in *BEST NEW POETS* and *LET ME SAY THIS: A Dolly Parton Poetry Anthology* (Madville Publishing) and have appeared in publications such as *Ploughshares*, *The Missouri Review’s “Poem of the Week,”* and *Mississippi Review*, among many others. An MFA in poetry from New England College, a Virginia Center for Creative Arts Fellow, and a 2022 Palm Beach Poetry Festival Thomas Lux Scholar, Sysko has received several Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg awards, was a 2010 Delaware Division of the Arts Emerging Artist Fellow, and was chosen by former U.S. Poet Laureate Billy Collins as runner-up for the 2023 Scotti Merrill Poetry Award. Collins said of Sysko’s poetry, “This poet uses the language of everyday to expose the nervous realities at work behind human behavior... using bright language to make poems that are fun to read!” Sysko’s prose was selected as a finalist in *The Georgia Review’s* inaugural Prose Prize, judged by Jennine Capó Crucet, and was honorably mentioned by Zoetrope’s *All Story*, judged by novelist Anthony Marra, also earning finalist recognition from both *The Bellingham Review* Annie Dillard Award for Creative Nonfiction and *The Pinch* Literary Awards. A former high school English teacher and department chair, Sysko is now Director of Executive Communications at Delaware State University, where she assists University President Dr. Tony Allen in matching words to the “HBCU movement.” You can learn more about her online at ljsysko.com.

BIO (133 WORDS) – for publications

L.J. Sysko is the author of *THE DAUGHTER OF MAN* (released in April '23 by University of Arkansas Press), the 2023 Miller Williams Poetry Series first finalist selected by Patricia Smith, and *BATTLEDORE* (2017, Finishing Line Press), a chapbook about early motherhood. Sysko’s work has been anthologized in *BEST NEW POETS* and *LET ME SAY THIS: A Dolly Parton Poetry Anthology* (Madville Publishing) and has appeared or is forthcoming in publications such as *Ploughshares*, *The Georgia Review*, *The Missouri Review’s “Poem of the Week,”* and *Mississippi Review*, among others. An MFA in poetry from New England College, a Virginia Center for Creative Arts Fellow, and a 2022 Palm Beach Poetry Festival Thomas Lux Scholar, Sysko is Director of Executive Communications at Delaware State University. You can learn more about her online at ljsysko.com.