

L.J. SYSKO

LONG BIO (309 WORDS) – for event introductions or general knowledge

L.J. Sysko is the author of two books of poems, including her debut full-length collection *THE DAUGHTER OF MAN*, selected by poet Patricia Smith for the Miller Williams Poetry Series, published by University of Arkansas Press in 2023. The book is “goddam funny” and “a clinic in irony,” says poet Ross Gay; “this whip-smart collection is a playful celebration of feminine power,” wrote *Publishers Weekly*; “The Daughter of Man is an exquisite dance in which form, function, image, and metaphor shape a discernible allegory ... that tickled [the reviewer’s] jealous g-spot,” claimed *Compulsive Reader*; and, according to *The Colorado Review*, Sysko is “a valley girl Beowulf.”

Sysko’s poems have been anthologized in *BEST NEW POETS* and *LET ME SAY THIS* and have appeared in literary journals such as *Ploughshares*, *The Missouri Review’s* “Poem of the Week,” and *Mississippi Review*, among others. Sysko holds an MFA in poetry from New England College where she studied with Gerald Stern, Maxine Kumin, F.D. Reeve, and Anne Marie Macari, among others, and she is a three-time Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg honoree, a two-time Delaware Division of the Arts Fellow, a Virginia Center for the Creative Arts Fellow, and a Palm Beach Poetry Festival “Thomas Lux Scholar.”

Also a prose author, Sysko’s nonfiction was *The Georgia Review* inaugural Prose Prize finalist, selected by judge Jennine Capó Crucet and published in the journal’s Summer 2023 issue; her prose has also been recognized by Zoetrope’s *All Story*, judged by novelist Anthony Marra; *The Bellingham Review* Annie Dillard Award for Creative Nonfiction; and *The Pinch* Literary Awards.

Sysko taught high school English for fourteen years, but since 2021, she has written professionally for Delaware State University President Tony Allen in the role of Director of Executive Communications. Contributing Editor at *Tupelo Quarterly* where her GenX feature, “Be Kind Rewind,” appears, Sysko lives in Wilmington, Delaware with her family.

SHORTER BIO (96 WORDS) – for shorter event introductions or publications

L.J. Sysko is the author of *THE DAUGHTER OF MAN*, which was selected for the Miller Williams Poetry Series by Patricia Smith and published by University of Arkansas Press in 2023, and *BATTLEDORE*, a poetry chapbook about early motherhood published by Finishing Line Press in 2017. Sysko's work has been anthologized in *BEST NEW POETS* and *LET ME SAY THIS*, appearing also in publications such as *Ploughshares*, *The Georgia Review*, *The Missouri Review's "Poem of the Week,"* and *Mississippi Review*. Sysko is Contributing Editor at *Tupelo Quarterly* and Director of Executive Communications at Delaware State University.