

# L.J. SYSKO

ljsysko.com

ARTIST VITAE

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## EDUCATION

New England College, Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing (poetry). June 2006.

Lafayette College, Bachelor of Arts in English. June 1997.  
Summa Cum Laude; Phi Beta Kappa; H. MacKnight Black Poetry Prize. Judge: Gerald Stern.  
1997; Gilbert Prize in English. 1997; Academy of American Poets' Jean Corrie Poetry Prize.  
1996; Rexroth Prize in German. 1994.

The Lawrenceville School. June 1993.

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## SELECTED PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Delaware State University, Writer.

Dover, Delaware. 2020-Ongoing.

- Director of Executive Communications, Office of The President. 2021-Ongoing.
- Accreditation Project Manager, Office of Institutional Effectiveness. 2020-2021.

Tower Hill School, Upper School English Teacher and English Department Chair.  
Wilmington, Delaware. 2008-2020.

Wilmington Friends School, Upper School English Teacher.  
Wilmington, Delaware. 2004-2006.

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## BOOK PUBLICATIONS

*THE DAUGHTER OF MAN*. Miller Williams Poetry Series. University of Arkansas Press. 2023.  
Audiobook, narrated by author. October 2023.

*BATTLEDORE*. New Women's Voices Chapbook Series #131. Finishing Line Press: 2017.

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## LITERARY JOURNAL AND ANTHOLOGY PUBLICATIONS

"Be Kind Rewind: Where Poetry Meets Proust, an interview series by L.J. Sysko," *Tupelo Quarterly*. (tupeloquarterly.com). TQ32. May 15, 2024.

*Inside Lane*, *The Georgia Review*. Summer 2023.

"The Daughter of Man: A Conversation with L.J. Sysko and a Portfolio of Poetry," *Tupelo Quarterly*. (tupeloquarterly.com). TQ29. March 31, 2023.

"The Yassification of Dolly Parton," *LET ME SAY THIS: A DOLLY PARTON POETRY ANTHOLOGY*. Madville Publishing. 2023.

"Landscape with Wisteria," *Mississippi Review*. Volume 47.4. Summer 2022.

"M.I.L.F.," Robinson Jeffers Tor House Foundation. (torhouse.org). 2022.

"What A Warrior Whispers" triptych, *Degenerate Art*. (thisdegenerate.art). Issue A. 2022.

"Paula" and "Everything's Elegy," *Mom Egg Review*. (momeggreview.com). Volume 20. May 2022.

"Ball Game," "Relational Identity," and "Flying Fish," *Painted Bride Quarterly*. Issue 101. May 2022.

"Pockabook," *Missouri Review* "Poem of the Week." (missourireview.com). March 14, 2022.

"I'm addicted to meet-cutes.," *Limp Wrist*. (limpwristmagazine.com). #6. March 2022.

"Kristallnacht," *Radar Poetry*. (radarpoetry.com). Issue 32. February 2022.

"Venus and Minerva in Quarantine" and "Fluorescent Mammals," *Moist Poetry Journal*. (moistpoetryjournal.com). December 22 & 24, 2021.

"I'm undone," *SWWIM Every Day*. (swimm.org). December 6, 2021.

"Trees and paint aren't different," *SWWIM Every Day*. (swimm.org). May 7, 2021.

"I have a friend who wants to be buried," *Stirring*. (stirringlit.com). April 1, 2021.

"Self-portrait with Bubble Gum," *Voicemail Poems*. (voicemailpoems.org). Summer 2020.

"Barnegat Light," *The Pinch*. Issue 39.2. August 2019.

Additional publication credits: *Tailoring Truth* (poem and essay), Planned Parenthood of Delaware blog. 2018; *Mom Egg Review* (momeggreview.com). 2016; *Day One*. 2014; Texas Poetry Calendar. 2014; "Just Try," *BEST NEW POETS*. University of Virginia Press. 2013. *Sweet: A Literary Confection* (sweetlit.com). 2013; *Terrain*. (terrain.org). 2012; *New York Quarterly*. 2011, 2010; *5AM*. 2010, 2009; *Rattle* (rattle.com). 2009; *Ploughshares* (pshares.org). 2009.

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#### COLLABORATIONS AND MULTIMEDIA WORK

"Fleet as Time" lyrics commissioned by Zerrin Agabigum Martin; musical composer Daniel Elder (youtube demo). February 2020.

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#### CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, AND RESIDENCIES

Association of Writers & Writing Programs, annual conference and bookfair in Kansas City, MO. Panel moderator: "Generative Workshops: Take 'Em or Teach 'Em" with panelists Kim Addonizio, Sandra Beasley, Flower Conroy, and Maya C. Popa. February 2024.

Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, residency (poetry). July 2022. Also September 2021.

Maya C. Popa generative workshops, online (poetry). June and September 2022, February 2023.

Positively Negative: Developing Mystery in Poems Via Negative Capability, Palm Beach Poetry Festival, online. Workshop leader: Diane Seuss (poetry). 2022.

Sunday Afternoon Poets Workshop, online. Workshop leader: Kim Addonizio (poetry). 2021.

Pandemic Poets Workshop, online. Workshop leader: Kim Addonizio (poetry). 2020.

Key West Writers Workshop in Key West, FL. Workshop leader: Gregory Pardlo (poetry). 2019.

Delaware Seashore Writers' Retreat in Rehoboth Beach, DE. Workshop leader: Sandra Beasley (poetry). 2018.

Rutgers University Council on Children's Literature's One-on-One Plus Conference in New

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Brunswick, NJ. Mentor: Mallory Kass (prose). 2016.  
 West Chester University Poetry Conference in West Chester, PA. Workshop leader: Mark Jarman (poetry). 2016.  
 Others: San Diego State University Writers' Conference in San Diego, CA (prose). 2016;  
 Queens University's "One Book, One Semester" in Charlotte, NC. Mentor: Sean McDonald, editor, FSG (prose). 2013; "Writing Poems that Don't Fit" Workshop, online. Workshop leader: Daisy Fried (poetry). 2012; The Nebraska Center for the Book Master Class in Lincoln, NE. Workshop leader: Hilda Raz (poetry). 2010; Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators Conferences, assorted locales (prose). 2010-2017; Colrain Poetry Manuscript Conference in Greenfield, MA. Workshop leader: Fred Marchant (poetry). 2009; Middlebury College Breadloaf Writers' Conference in Middlebury, VT. Workshop leader: Dan Albergotti (poetry). 2008.

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#### HONORS, AWARDS, AND GRANTS

Delaware Division of the Arts, established artist fellow. 2024.  
*The Georgia Review* Prose Prize, finalist. Judge: Jennine Capó Crucet. 2023.  
 Scotti Merrill Award for poetry, runner-up. Key West Literary Seminar. Judge: Billy Collins. 2023.  
 Miller Williams Poetry Series, first finalist. University of Arkansas Press. Judge: Patricia Smith. 2023.  
 Pushcart Prize, nominee. 2023.  
*Frontier Poetry* New Voices Poetry Contest, longlist. 2022.  
 The Robinson Jeffers Tor House Prize for Poetry, honorable mention. Judge: Forrest Gander. 2022.  
*Mississippi Review* Prize, poetry finalist. 2022.  
*The Missouri Review* Jeffrey E. Smith Editors' Prize, poetry finalist. 2022.  
 Virginia Center for Creative Arts, fellow. 2022. (Also 2021).  
 Sandy Crimmins National Prize in Poetry, finalist. 2022.  
 Thomas Lux Scholar, Palm Beach Poetry Festival, scholarship recipient. 2022.  
 Copper Nickel Press, Jake Adam York Prize, finalist. 2021.  
 Patricia Dobler Poetry Award, finalist. 2021.  
*New Millennium* Writing Awards 51, poetry honorable mention. 2021.  
 Marsh Hawk Press Poetry Prize, finalist. 2021.  
 Fish Publishing Poetry Prize, short list. Judge: Billy Collins. 2021. (Also 2020).  
*The Bellingham Review* Annie Dillard Award for Creative Nonfiction, finalist. 2019.  
*The Fourth River* Folio Contest, poetry finalist. 2019.  
*The Pinch* Literary Awards, poetry finalist. 2019.  
*The Pinch* Literary Awards, prose finalist. 2019.  
*Soundings East* Claire Keyes Poetry Prize, finalist. 2018.  
 Zoetrope All-Story Short Fiction Contest, honorable mention. Judge: Anthony Marra. 2016.

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Finishing Line Press New Women's Voices Chapbook Competition, finalist. 2016.  
San Diego State University Writers' Conference Choice Award in middle grade fiction. 2016.  
Others: West Chester Poetry Conference, scholarship recipient. 2016; Delaware Division of the Arts, opportunity grant award. 2013; Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Memorial Foundation Award. 2011 (Also 2009, 2004); Delaware Division of the Arts, emerging artist fellow. 2010.

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## SELECTED READINGS AND APPEARANCES

[Night Light](#), virtual poetry reading. May 9, 2024.  
[A Hundred Pitchers of Honey Series](#), virtual poetry reading. November 16, 2023.  
*Poetry Afield*, The Littlefield in Cincinnati, OH. September 16, 2023.  
*Lit Balm*, virtual poetry reading. August 12, 2023.  
[W-E Poets of the Pandemic and Beyond](#), virtual poetry reading. May 21, 2023.  
[South Florida Poetry Journal](#), virtual poetry reading. April 25, 2023.  
University of Wolverhampton, virtual poetry reading. April 5, 2023.  
*Wild and Precious Life Series*, virtual poetry reading. March 22, 2023. Also March 16, 2022.  
[Poetry Is Bread Series](#), Instagram poetry reading. February 2023.

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## SELECTED MEDIA COVERAGE

*The Daughter of Man* book reviews:

[Tupelo Quarterly](#), book review. December 14, 2023.  
[Colorado Review](#), book review. October 27, 2023.  
[The Compulsive Reader](#), book review. October 10, 2023.  
[Feminist Book Club](#), National Poetry Month reading list. March 31, 2023.  
[Publishers Weekly](#), book review. February 20, 2023.  
[Herald Leader, Northwest Arkansas Online](#) opinion: "Summer Books." May 31, 2023.  
[The Open Mic: Writers in Their Own Words](#) podcast, interview. May 16, 2023.  
[Delaware State of the Arts Podcast](#), interview. May 9, 2023.  
[Viewless Wings Poetry Podcast](#), interview. April 7, 2023.  
Delaware Today magazine, feature. [January 2024](#). (Also [April 2023](#).)  
"The Daughter of Man: A Conversation with L.J. Sysko and a Portfolio of Poetry," [Tupelo Quarterly](#). (tupeloquarterly.com). TQ29. March 31, 2023.

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## SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

*Tupelo Quarterly*, Contributing Editor. 2024-Ongoing.  
Delaware State Arts Council, board member. 2021-2023.  
*The Common* (thecommononline.org), slush pile reader. 2021-2022.  
Biden-Harris Campaign, volunteer speechwriter. 2020.

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