

## CRYSTAL SIMONE SMITH

### LONG BIO

Born 1973 in Takoma Park, Maryland, Crystal Simone Smith received a Masters of Fine Arts from Queens University of Charlotte. She is the author of three chapbooks of poetry, *Down To Earth*, (Longleaf Press, 2021), *Running Music* (Longleaf Press, 2014) and *Routes Home* (Finishing Line Press, 2013). Smith was a scholarship participant at the Napa Valley Writer's Conference and is an alumnus of the Yale Summer Writers Conference and the Callaloo Writer's Workshop. She is an Assistant Professor of English and has taught courses at Elon University, Greensboro College, and Duke Young Writers Camp. She is the recipient of a Duke Humanities Unbounded Fellowship, 2020.

Her work has been widely published in journals including: *Prairie Schooner*, *Callaloo*, *Nimrod*, *African-American Review*, *Frogpond*, *Modern Haiku*, and anthologized in numerous poetry collections.

Smith is the Founder and Managing Editor of Backbone Press Inc., which publishes emerging & established poets with a focus on publishing and advancing the voices of writers of color. Works that appear in Backbone Press titles have been published in *Prairie Schooner*, *Poetry Magazine*, *Poets.org*, *Tupelo Quarterly*, *Chicago Quarterly* and elsewhere. Additionally, several Backbone authors have won significant awards, including The APR Honickman Book Award and The Sexton Prize for Poetry.

#### AWARDS & HONORS:

In 2015, Crystal Simone Smith was the first recipient of the Ashber Initiatives Literary Grant, which funded *Wildflowers: Haiku, Senryu, and Haiga* (2016), a limited edition, letterpress book of traditional Japanese poetry and art.

Her poem "Plantation Tour" took 2nd place in NCPS Griffin-Farlow Haiku Award in 2014 and her poem "Slave Museum" won 1st place in the NCPS Bloodroot Haiku Award in 2019. Smith's co-authored *One Window's Light: A Collection of Haiku* (Unicorn Press, 2017), edited by Lenard D. Moore was awarded the 1st Place Merit Book Award for best haiku anthology by the Haiku Society of America.

Other selected poems of Smith's have been named either Finalist or Honorable Mention in the 2012 Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Poetry Prize, the 2017 Pablo

Neruda Poetry Prize, and the 2018 James Applewhite Poetry Award. Smith also serves on the editorial board of *Juxtaposition: The Journal of Haiku Research and Scholarship*.