

## **Short Artist Bio**

A twice-Emmy nominated and multiple award-winning spoken word poet, educator, and activist, Michelle Myers shares work that emphasizes personal empowerment and community building. For almost 20 years, Michelle has inspired audiences with her spoken word poetry performances and raised awareness through her workshops.

Michelle first gained national and international acclaim by appearing on HBO's Def Poetry Jam as an original cast member and as a founding member of the spoken word poetry group Yellow Rage. She is the recipient of a Leeway Foundation Transformation Award as well as an Art and Change Grant for her art and social justice work. Based in the Philadelphia-area, Michelle and her performance work have been featured at hundreds of college campuses as well as at many distinguished venues around the country, including the Painted Bride Arts Center, the Bowery Poetry Club, the Asian American Writers Workshop, the Asian Arts Initiative, the Kennedy Center, the Loft Literary Center, the Sierra Arts Foundation, the Japanese American National Museum, and the Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience. Employing multiple poetic forms and delivery styles—including storytelling, hip-hop-influenced rhyme, and song—Michelle harnesses the raw and intimate power of spoken word poetry in her performances in order to take audiences on an unforgettable journey that educates, challenges, and inspires. She is currently working on a new volume of poetry, tentatively titled *Prayers from the Lost-and-Found*.

Born in Seoul, South Korea to a Korean mother and a white American father serving in the U.S. Air Force, Michelle draws from her personal experiences as a biracial Korean American woman to write poetry that challenges mainstream misconceptions of Asianness and explores the intersections of race, culture, gender, community, and self. Ultimately, she believes in the transformative power of spoken word poetry.