Savage Sunsets: A memorial tribute to Adrian C. Louis Agenda
March 2020 San Antonio
Tacey Atsitty Moderator, Shari Crane Fox Panelist, Erika Wurth Panelist, Crisosto Apache Panelist, Anna Osceola Panelist, and David Heska Wanbli Weiden Panelist — Shauna Osborn Organizer

Type of Event: Tribute

Event Description: In 2018, one of Native America’s most prolific authors passed on, leaving a long list of literary achievements, 20 influential books, a feature film, and the saddened dystopian cornfields where he enjoyed lurking. “Earth bone connected to the spirit bone.” Who can refuse a toast to work described as wild, foolish, poignant, cartoon, and brilliant? Celebrate Louis’ contributions to Native letters, his pedagogical legacy, and his affinity to dark raw edges with the Indigenous Aboriginal American Writers Caucus.

Statement of Merit: Adrian Louis was an award winning, multi-genred author who published books of poetry and fiction, co-founded the Native American Journalists Association, and taught for 28 years. Fostering the work of many writers for more than three decades, Louis was an inspiration to numerous published authors, journalists, and Indigenous readers. The IAAWC requests a forum to celebrate his legacy with the journalism, publishing, and pedagogical communities represented at the AWP annual conference.

Bios

1. Tacey M. Atsitty, Diné, is a recipient of numerous prizes and awards. Her work has appeared or is forthcoming in POETRY Magazine, Kenyon Review Online, Prairie Schooner, Crazyhorse, Literary Hub, and other publications. Her first book is Rain Scald.

2. Shari Crane Fox comes from Cherokee, Lakota, Blackfoot and Irish roots. She holds advanced degrees from the University of Arizona, UCSD, Stanford and Mayo Clinic. A psychiatrist and poet, she works with disadvantaged youth.

3. Erika T. Wurth's publications include two novels, two poetry collections, & a short story collection. She’s a Kenyon Review Workshop Scholar, & is attending Tin House Summer Workshop. She teaches creative writing at WIU & was a guest writer at IAIA. She’s Apache/Chickasaw/Cherokee.

4. Crisosto Apache is an enrolled member of the Mescalero Apache Tribe with descent from Mescalero, Chiricahua Apache & Diné (Salt Clan born for Towering House Clan). He has an MFA from IAIA. He teaches and pursues the advocacy of Native American / Indigenous LGBTQ social injustice.

5. Anna Osceola is from the Seminole Tribe of Florida. She has an MFA from IAIA.

6. David Heska Wanbli Weiden is an enrolled member of the Sicangu Lakota nation. He is
author of the novel WINTER COUNTS (Ecco/HarperCollins, forthcoming August 25, 2020) which was chosen as one of 2020’s most anticipated books by Library Journal.

7. Shauna Osborn is Executive Director of Puha Hubiya, a nonprofit literary arts organization, and author of Arachnid Verve (a poetry collection) which was a finalist for the Oklahoma Book Awards. They have won awards from the New York Public Library, AROHO, TSWC, and a Crescendo Literary Fellowship.

AGENDA

Call to Order
Introductions
Discussions, Readings, and Oral Tributes:

- Crisosto Apache: I would like to talk about my discovery with his poetry book Among the Dog Eaters and how it inspired me. I came across that book back while attending IAIA in 1990. What forced me to read the collection was the curiosity of the title. Many years later, after carrying and referring to that book, I have a better understanding of the title and the contents of the book.

- Tacey Atsitty: There's one Louis poem in particular that I'd like to read and that is "This is the Time of Grasshoppers and All That I See is Dying." I know Adrian mostly as a poet and mentor, and I have a piece I edited for the Yellow Medicine Review’s Louis tribute special issue I would love to share.

- Erika Wurth: I'll read my tribute that was in Yellow Medicine Review and maybe talk loosely on my relationship to Louis and his work.

- Anna Osceola: I have a tribute poem in honor of Louis I plan to read. I'd also like to discuss poetry of his.

- Shari Crane Fox: I'm very excited to participate in this panel. I'd like to read a poem I wrote after Adrian C. Louis, called "Poem about the bottle blonde ex who stole your dog." It relates to the poem of Louis' that Tacey plans to discuss. Here is a link to Cathexis NW where the poem was just published.
  https://www.cathexisnorthwestpress.com/january2020 Cathexis NW added a small bit about what it means to me below the poem.

- David Heska Wanbli Weiden: I'm delighted to take part in this panel, and I'd like to briefly discuss the novel SKINS and its relevance to Native fiction today.

Questions/Remarks from Audience