



In addition, if you are on Twitter or Instagram, please tag the National Endowment for the Arts using @NEArts in your announcement any time after Feb. 13 at 10:00 am ET.

---

**DATE:** Feb. 13, 2019

**CONTACT:** PCharles@beacon.org, srpimentel@utep.edu

**National Endowment for the Arts Announces Creative Writing Fellows**  
***Sasha Pimentel among 35 recipients nationwide***

*El Paso, Texas*—Today, the National Endowment for the Arts announced that Sasha Pimentel is one of 35 poets who will receive an FY 2019 Creative Writing Fellowship of \$25,000. Through its Creative Writing Fellowships, the Arts Endowment gives writers the time and space needed to create. Fellows are selected through a highly-competitive, anonymous process and are judged solely on the artistic excellence of the work sample provided.

“A recent national survey shows reading poetry is making a comeback,” said Mary Anne Carter, acting chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts. “The National Endowment for the Arts supports our nation’s poets and encourages a wide range of voices and styles.”

Sasha Pimentel was selected from nearly 1,700 eligible applicants. Fellowships alternate between poetry and prose each year and this year’s fellowships are to support poetry. **The full list of FY 2019 Creative Writing Fellows is available [here](#).**

Sasha Pimentel is the author of two collections of poetry: *For Want of Water* (2017, Beacon Press), winner of the National Poetry Series (selected by Gregory Pardlo), winner of the Helen C. Smith Award, and longlisted for the PEN/Open Book Award; and *Insides She Swallowed* (2010, West End), winner of the American Book Award. She has published poems and essays in *The New York Times*, *PBS News Hour*, *ESPN*, *The American Poetry Review*, *New England Review*, and *Literary Hub*, and other literary publications. She is the 2018-2019 Picador Guest Professor for Literature at Universität Leipzig in Germany, and the recipient of a 2019 NEA fellowship in poetry. Born in the Philippines and raised in the United States and Saudi Arabia, Pimentel is an Associate Professor in the Department of Creative Writing at the University of Texas at El Paso, on the border of Ciudad Juárez, México.

Since 1967, the Arts Endowment has awarded more than 3,500 Creative Writing Fellowships totaling over \$54 million. Many American recipients of the National Book Award, National Book Critics Circle Award, and Pulitzer Prize in Poetry and Fiction were recipients of NEA fellowships early in their careers.

Visit the agency’s [Literature Fellowships webpage](#) to read excerpts by and features on past Creative Writing Fellows and recipients of Literature Fellowships for translation projects. For more information on literature at the National Endowment for the Arts, go to [arts.gov](#).

# # #