



Sept. 29, 2023

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WVC Hosts Washington State's First Native Poet Laureate in Celebration of Arbor Day and the MAC Gallery Exhibit

In celebration of Arbor Day and the current exhibit in the MAC Gallery, *Cascadia: A More-Than-Human Experience*, several contributors to the book that led to the exhibit will read their work and answer questions. Washington State's first Native Poet Laureate, Rena Priest, will read alongside Xavier Cavazos and WVC English faculty, Jack Johnson and Derek Sheffield. In addition, artist Justin Gibbens will give a presentation about his art that is featured in the book and the exhibit. This reading and talk will take place from 5 pm to 6 pm on Friday, October 6 in The Grove Recital Hall in the MAC. From 6 pm to 7 pm, the MAC gallery will be open for viewing. A Book for All Seasons will have copies of *Cascadia Field Guide: Art, Ecology, Poetry* for purchase. This event is free and open to the public.

Rena Priest is an enrolled member of the Lhaq'temish (Lummi) Nation. She served as the 6th Washington State Poet Laureate (2021-2023) and is the recipient of an Allied Arts Foundation Professional Poets Award, an American Book Award, and fellowships from the Academy of American Poets, Indigenous Nations Poets, and the University of Washington Libraries. She is the author of two collections of poems and editor of two anthologies. Her most recent book, *Northwest Know-How: Beaches*, is a finalist for the 2023 Washington State Book Award. She holds an MFA from Sarah Lawrence College.

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To report discrimination or harassment: Title IX Coordinator, Wenatchi Hall 2322M, (509) 682-6445, title9@wvc.edu.

To request disability accommodations: Director of Student Access, Wenatchi Hall 2133, (509) 682-6854, TTY/TTD: dial 711, sas@wvc.edu.

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