

AZTLAN LIBRE PRESS

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AZTLAN LIBRE PRESS ANNOUNCES NEW PUBLICATION BY SAN ANTONIO POET LAUREATE LAURIE ANN GUERRERO

San Antonio, TX: Aztlan Libre Press announces the publication of San Antonio Poet Laureate Laurie Ann Guerrero's new book, *A Crown for Gumecindo*. Published in a special hardbound edition, *A Crown for Gumecindo* is a heroic crown of sonnets dedicated and addressed to the author's grandfather, Gumecindo Martínez Guerrero, who passed away in 2013. The sonnets chronicle Guerrero's first year of grief following the loss of her beloved grandfather, the family patriarch. Through 15 linked sonnets, journal entries and meditations, Guerrero reexamines the lessons she learned from her grandfather, both intentionally and unintentionally, and in the process, carefully dissects the complex inheritance of their multigenerational, multilingual, and multifaceted male-female relationship. Guerrero draws upon various histories – personal, social, literary – in order to expose the uncertainties encountered in a time of mourning.

Award-winning visual artist, poet and professor Maceo Montoya from California contributes 15 paintings to the book. Inspired by Guerrero's sonnets, Montoya's paintings offer readers a layered experience of the tender and often shocking revelations of grief.

Tim Z. Hernández, author of *Natural Takeover of Small Things*, who writes the Foreword to this book, states that: "*A Crown for Gumecindo* will hold its rightful place among the list of pivotal tomes that readers and writers alike will find themselves returning to time and again: a classic."

Laurie Ann Guerrero was born and raised in the Southside of San Antonio, Texas and was named Poet Laureate of the City of San Antonio in 2014 by former mayor, Julián Castro. Her first full-length collection, *A Tongue in the Mouth of the Dying*, was selected by Francisco X. Alarcón as winner of the 2012 Andrés Montoya Poetry Prize and published by the University of Notre Dame Press in 2013. Guerrero holds a B.A. in English Language & Literature from Smith College and an MFA in Poetry from Drew University. She is the inaugural Poet-in-Residence at Palo Alto College in San Antonio and continues to live and write in her hometown.

A National Book Launch for San Antonio Poet Laureate Laurie Ann Guerrero's new book, *A Crown for Gumecindo*, which is sponsored by the City of San Antonio Department for Culture & Creative Development, Gemini Ink, Southwest School of Art and Aztlan Libre Press, will be held on Wednesday, May 6, 2015 from 6:30-9pm at the Southwest School of Art Coates Chapel (300 Augusta, 78205). The event is free and open to the public and will include an author reading, multi-media presentation and book signing, music by DJ Despeinada, free food and a cash bar.

For information, call 210.710.8537 or e-mail editors@aztlanlibrepress.com *A Crown for Gumecindo* and other Aztlan Libre Press publications are available for purchase at www.aztlanlibrepress.com and are also available through Small Press Distribution at www.spdbooks.org

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302 Stratford Ct., San Antonio, Texas 78223 210.710.8537 aztlanlibrepress.com editors@aztlanlibrepress.com