

# DORA E. MCQUAID

## ONE WOMAN'S VOICE



Award-Winning

Poet

Activist

Speaker

and

Teacher

**Dora E. McQuaid** is descendant of traveling gypsies, Irish Golden-gloved boxers, and strong women, whose stories and the telling of them prompted her lifelong fascination with the written and spoken word. Dora continues her family tradition of using the personal story to explore memory and conjecture, culture and community, and the connections between the private and the political. Her work embodies the intersections between art and activism, service and empowerment.

Dora's unique blend of art, emotion and service has earned her multiple literary and service awards and honors. Her dedication to addressing the issues of sexual and domestic violence through poetry, performance and activism was honored in 2012 by her image replacing that of former Penn State football coach and convicted child sex offender, Jerry Sandusky, in the Inspirations Mural by artist Michael Pilato of the Public Art Academy in State College, Pennsylvania, where Penn State is located. Gargoyle Literary Journal nominated Dora's poem, ***Tunnel of Love***, for a 2014 Pushcart Prize. Dora was also honored as one of the Remarkable Women of Taos, New Mexico during the 2012 celebration of women whose lives and creative spirits have influenced the Northern New Mexico community. In 2011, Dora was awarded the New Mexico Woman Writer's Fellowship by A Room of Her Own Foundation. Additionally, Dora's efforts garnered a 2003 Pennsylvania Governor's Pathfinder Award, recognition by the

Pennsylvania Senate and a Vagina Warrior Award from the Penn State cast of Eve Ensler's play ***The Vagina Monologues***, all while serving as faculty at Penn State between 1999 and 2006, among other honors. She has been awarded a number of Poet-In-Residence and Fellowship positions, including The Harwood Museum of Art and The Helene Wurlitzer Foundation in Taos, New Mexico, among others.

Dora's groundbreaking first collection of poems, ***the scorched earth***, and its audio companion, ***the scorched earth: spoken***, were reissued as an Expanded, Second Edition by award-winning Baskerville Publishers in the spring of 2015, with the Foreword written by Eve Ensler, Tony Award-winning playwright of ***The Vagina Monologues*** and Founder of both the international V-DAY Foundation and the global One Billion Rising Event. This collection documents Dora's journey from victimization to survivorship, through healing from both sexual and domestic violence into empowerment as an award-winning poet, activist, speaker and teacher. Eve Ensler calls ***the scorched earth*** "...startling and visionary."

Dora performs, speaks and teaches internationally in venues as varied as men's and women's prisons, justice and outreach programs, political rallies and community events, universities and high schools, churches and shelters, as well as television and radio programs and professional and academic conferences. She has collaborated nationally with an array of other artists and activists, ranging from writers, poets and performance artists, to musicians and songwriters and visual artists working in a wide variety of mediums, including the pioneering Ekphrasis poets and artists of Taos, New Mexico.

Dora currently serves as a member of the Board of Directors of The Sage Institute for Creativity, Consciousness and Environment and The Council for Hope and Healing, which she co-founded in 2012 with a group of international artists and activists to address healing, empowerment and community development through the Arts. Dora also serves as consultant and expert witness in sexual violence legal cases, establishing offender liability and the effects of violence that victims often experience.

Dora's work has been published in anthologies, films, plays, musical compositions, literary journals and magazines and required course readings and law enforcement training programs. The poem, ***Around This Table***, which Dora was commissioned to write for the 25th Anniversary of the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence, is available in poster form, which benefits The Memorial Fund for Women lost in domestic violence homicides. Kate Bogle's short film, ***One Woman's Voice***, which documents Dora's combined roles as poet, teacher and survivor/activist, is used internationally as a teaching and training tool in colleges, universities, prisons, outreach and judicial programs. Dora's forthcoming collection is ***Seven: Poems of The Interim***.

For more information and booking, please visit:

**[WWW.DORAMCQUAID.COM](http://WWW.DORAMCQUAID.COM)**