

Crystal Wilkinson, a recent fellowship recipient of the Academy of American Poets, is the award-winning author of *Praisesong for the Kitchen Ghosts*, a culinary memoir, *Perfect Black*, a collection of poems, and three works of fiction—*The Birds of Opulence*, *Water Street* and *Blackberries, Blackberries*. She is the recipient of an NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Poetry, an O. Henry Prize, a USA Artists Fellowship, and an Ernest J. Gaines Prize for Literary Excellence. Named Kentucky's Poet Laureate from 2021 to 2023, she has received recognition from the Yaddo Foundation, Hedgebrook, The Vermont Studio Center for the Arts, The Hermitage Foundation and others. Her short stories, poems and essays have appeared in numerous journals and anthologies including most recently in *The Atlantic*, *The Kenyon Review*, *STORY*, *Agni Literary Journal*, *Emergence*, *Oxford American* and *Southern Cultures*. She currently teaches at the University of Kentucky where she is Bush-Holbrook Professor in Creative Writing.