

LAURET SAVOY

Shorter Bio

Tracing memory threads Lauret Edith Savoy's life and work: unearthing what is buried, *re-mem-bering* what is fragmented, shattered, eroded. A woman of African American, Euro-American, and Native American heritage, she writes about the stories we tell of the American land's origins and the stories we tell of ourselves in this land. Her books include *Trace: Memory, History, Race, and the American Landscape*; *The Colors of Nature: Culture, Identity and the Natural World*; *Bedrock: Writers on the Wonders of Geology*; and *Living with the Changing California Coast*. *Trace* was a finalist for both the 2016 PEN American Open Book Award and Phillis Wheatley Book Award, as well as shortlisted for the William Saroyan International Prize for Writing. Lauret is a professor of environmental studies and geology at Mount Holyoke College, a photographer, and pilot. Winner of Mount Holyoke's Distinguished Teaching Award, she has also held fellowships from the Smithsonian Institution and Yale University. She is a Fellow of the Geological Society of America.

Longer Biography

Lauret Edith Savoy's life and work draw from her need to put the eroded world into language, to remember fragmented pasts into present. A woman of African American, Euro-American, and Native American heritage, she explores the stories we tell of the American land's origins—and the stories we tell of ourselves in this land. For her, writing of the complex intertwinings of natural and cultural histories is a way of seeking home among the ruins and shards that surround us all. The work is as necessary as breath.

Lauret's new book is *Trace: Memory, History, Race, and the American Landscape* (Counterpoint Press), which was a finalist for both the 2016 PEN American Open Book Award and Phillis Wheatley Book Award, as well as shortlisted for the William Saroyan International Prize for Writing. With Alison Hawthorne Deming, she co-edited *The Colors of Nature: Culture, Identity, and the Natural World* (Milkweed Editions, expanded and revised in 2011). She also compiled and edited *Bedrock: Writers on the Wonders of Geology* (2006, with Eldridge and Judy Moores), and coauthored *Living with the Changing California Coast* (2005, with Gary Griggs and Kiki Patsch). Lauret's essays and other writings have appeared in the *Georgia Review*, *Gettysburg Review*, *Huffington Post*, *Travel & Leisure*, *ArtForum*, *Christian Science Monitor*, and *Orion* magazine, as well as in books such as *Moral Ground: Ethical Action for a Planet in Peril*.

Lauret is a professor of environmental studies and geology at Mount Holyoke College, a photographer, and pilot. Born in California, and a familial native of Washington, D.C., she graduated *cum laude* from Princeton University, then received her M.S. in earth sciences from the University of California, Santa Cruz, and Ph.D. from Syracuse University. Winner of Mount Holyoke's Distinguished Teaching Award, she has also held fellowships from the Smithsonian Institution and Yale University. She is a Fellow of the Geological Society of America.