

Arthur Sze and Carol Moldaw

creating a literary landscape

Acclaimed poets Arthur Sze and Carol Moldaw are two of Santa Fe's leading literary voices. Sze, a former creative writing professor at IAIA, served as the city's first poet laureate from 2006 to 2008, and Moldaw, who's taught at the Taos Summer Writing Conference and the former College of Santa Fe, co-runs a series with poet Dana Levin called *Muse Times Two*, which presents readings by national and local poets. The couple, who met at a poetry reading and married a few years later in 1997, have earned numerous honors for their work, including an American Book Award for Sze and a Pushcart Prize for Moldaw.

Born in New York City and raised on Long Island, Sze made his way to Santa Fe in 1972 following a suggestion from the late poet Josephine Miles, his undergraduate advisor at the University of California, Berkeley. While his influences include Tang dynasty poets, Dante, and Yates, among many others, Sze also draws inspiration from the City Different. "Santa Fe is my home ground," he says. "Native American culture has strongly influenced my writing, and, as it is my habit to work early in the morning, the landscape and light permeate my poetry."

Moldaw grew up in the Bay Area and moved to Santa Fe from New York City in 1990 because she missed the West and had close friends here. "I think that in Santa Fe it's possible to create a nice balance between community and solitude," she notes. "I'm not sure that living here has influenced my style, but the landscape has certainly entered my poems in a central way."

The poets primarily work from their home offices, where Sze recently finished a poem called "Water Calligraphy" and Moldaw completed a collection called *Beauty, Refracted*. "We live in such a fast-paced, surface-oriented world that poetry has a special role to play," says Sze. "Poetry makes us slow down, listen, and attune to our emotions. It has the amazing power to connect us all."—Amy Hegarty

