



ABOUT KARLA K. MORTON

Karla K. Morton, the 2010 Texas Poet Laureate and a member of the Texas Institute of Letters, is a celebrated poet, award-winning author, speaker and photographer. Described as “one of the more adventurous voices in American poetry,” Ms. Morton has 12 books of poetry published and has been featured on NPR, ABC News, CBS News, Good Morning Texas and in countless newspapers, blogs and magazines.

Karla is frequently invited to present as a keynote speaker at conventions, conferences, galas, universities, bookstores and festivals. She inspires, engages and entertains audiences with her warm and feisty spirit, her stories of perseverance, her connection to nature and her Texas-sized humor.

The *Dallas Morning News* says: “Karla K.Morton is perseverance personified.” The *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* writes: “She recites her evocative, rhyming verse with the conviction of a literary evangelist.”

Morton is a 2018 Western Heritage Wrangler Award Winner, Betsy Colquitt Award Winner, Eric Hoffer Award Winner, Montaigne Medal Finalist, two-time Indie Book Award Winner, North Texas Book Festival Award Winner, nominee for the National Cowgirl Hall of Fame and a Pushcart Prize nominee. She has been widely published in literary journals and is the author of twelve books of poetry, including the award-winning *Redefining Beauty* (now in its 3rd printing), *Accidental Origami*, released in 2016, and *Wooden Lions*, released in late 2017.

Another book, titled *No End of Vision: Texas as Seen by Two Laureates*, features Ms. Morton’s black and white photography combined with poetry by fellow Texas Poet Laureate Alan Birkelbach. A traveling photography and poetry exhibit by the same name is also being shown in museums, libraries and galleries.

Her latest project is a national joint venture with Birkelbach, titled *Words of Preservation: A Poets Laureate National Parks Tour*. Launched in 2016 to celebrate the National Park Systems’ 100-year anniversary, this 3-year tour will take Morton and Birkelbach to all 61 of the U.S. National Parks by the end of 2019, where they are documenting their journey through poetry and photography that will culminate in a book to be published by TCU Press in 2020. Earlier this year, they released a song with singer/musician Lisa Carver about their stance on our National Parks called “Go Around.” Like Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau and John Muir, Morton and Birkelbach hope to contribute to the exploration, preservation and protection of our country’s natural, beautiful spaces.

Karla is a two-time cancer survivor, holds a Journalism degree from Texas A&M University and currently divides her non-travel time between Fort Worth, Texas and Red River, New Mexico. For more information, you can visit www.karlakmorton.com.