# LOYCE GAYO

POET // TEACHING ARTIST // ACTIVIST

# THE BIO

LOYCE GAYO is a Tanzanian born touring poet, teaching artist, and activist based in Houston, TX. Gayo's work is influenced by her experience in the African Diaspora and celebrates the journey of a people dispersed. Gayo was the slam champion of the UT Spitshine poetry slam team who won the 2014 Collegiate Union Poetry Slam Invitational (CUPSI). Her work has been featured on Button Poetry, Write About Now, Badilisha Poetry, Fields Magazine and PBS. She teaches creative writing for Writers in the Schools, Houston and founded a creative writing and performance initiative based in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania called Paza Sauti.



### PAST PERFORMANCES

MTAANI, MASKANI EXHIBITION (CURATOR, FEATURE), DAR ES SALAAM TANZANIA, FEB 2018
NAFASI ART FESTIVAL (FEATURE), DAR ES SALAAM TANZANIA, DEC 2017
WORLD ISLAMIC ECONOMIC FORUM MOCAFEST (FEATURE), KUCHING MALAYSIA, NOV
2017

WOMEN OF THE WORLD POETRY SLAM, DALLAS TX, MAR 2017
DIASPORA DICTION (FEATURE), NEW ORLEANS LA, FEB 2017
MUD ISSUE RELEASE PARTY (FEATURE), AUSTIN TX, JAN 2017
BRYN MAWR CUPSI QUALIFIER SLAM (FEATURE), PA, OCT 2016
DISTANT RELATIVES EXHIBITION (FEATURE), AUSTIN TX, DEC 2015
BRAVE NEW VOICES, PHILADELPHIA PA, AUG 2014
CUPSI (CHAMPIONS), BOULDER CO, APRIL 2014
CUPSI, NEW YORK NY, APRIL 2013

"WE FORGOT CROWNS
DO NOTHING FOR
KINGS BUT PUT WEIGHT
ON THEIR HEADS AND A
TARGET ON THEIR
BACKS"

- HOW WE FORGET CLICK TO WATCH (BUTTON POETRY)



"Nasahau mara ngapi nimesikiliza mshahiri huyu, lakini kila wakati nasikia sauti mpya."

#### - @AUDREYNALUCY

"Somehow knowing as we listen to this brave, emotionally naked poet ... there is an inescapable remembrance. An undeniable truth, resonance offered to us with generous passion, conviction, integrity and vulnerability. You can't avoid being touched or provoked by it."

#### - BADILISHA POETRY

A carrier of an ancient wisdom, a deliberate psalm. With her clear sound and emotion-filled performances, Loyce clears a room and fills it with possibility. She reminds us to know ourselves and our history better, so that we may be more effective and loving community members -- a divine vessel, an essential artist:

a miracle maker."

#### - ARIANA BROWN

## TESTIMONIALS



