

# M.L. Smoker

A member of the Sioux and Assiniboiné tribes, poet M.L. Smoker earned a BA at Pepperdine University and an MFA at the University of Montana, where she received the Richard Hugo Memorial Scholarship. Influenced by John Steinbeck, James Welch, and Philip Levine, Smoker composes free verse poems that focus on personal struggle and identity and engage Native American history, language, and culture. Smoker lives in Helena, Montana, where she works in the Indian Education Division of the Office of Public Instruction.