

2016

Boston's Poet Laureate and Lesley University professor Danielle Legros Georges has released a book of poetry titled "The Dear Remote Nearness of You".

"The Dear Remote Nearness of You" explores the experiences, emotions and tensions of feeling near and far simultaneously. Georges gives the example of a long distance relationship. "Seeing your loved ones through the screen of the computer," she said. "They're there in front of you but you can't touch them. There's a screen between you that you want to in some ways have disappear."

Born in Haiti, Georges also uses the proximity and distance theme to understand the immigrant experience, such as the process of creating a life in a new place, yet still being deeply connected to one's place of origin.

A section of the book is dedicated to Haiti, with poems written after the 2010 earthquake. "Haitians are moving on with life, they're continuing to live," she said. "We're engaged in an election, so Haiti continues to be in the news. It's attempting to write its own story and I hope my poems, in some small way, contribute to that dialogue."

Poet Laureate is a four-year title appointed by the Mayor's office, and Georges is in her second year of the position. As laureate, she advocates for poetry, language and the arts, making them more visible and accessible through public readings and collaborations with other writers.

Part of her job is to amplify the already rich Boston poetry scene, she said, while the other is to demystify it. "Some people really love poetry, some people don't quite know what to do with it," she said. "I try to underscore how poetry can be very valuable to people, in helping us to understand one another, to talk to each other, to celebrate ourselves and our communities."

"The Dear Remote Nearness of You" is available through Barrow Street Press, at barrowstreet.org.