



ISLAND INSTITUTE  
WRITER-IN-RESIDENCE

## ALICE PUNG

NOVEMBER 18 – DECEMBER 9

### BOOKS

*Unpolished Gem:  
My Mother, My Grandmother & Me*  
*Growing Up Asian in Australia*

## Meet the Author Reading

Friday, November 20th, 7:00 p.m. / Kettleson Library

Alice Pung's family immigrated from Cambodia to Australia shortly before she was born. Her first book, *Unpolished Gem*, is a classic story of how a child of immigrants moves between two cultures. In place of piety and predictability, however, *Unpolished Gem* offers a vivid and ironic sense of both worlds. It combines the story of Pung's life growing up in suburban Footscray outside Melbourne with the inherited stories of the women in her family—stories of madness, survival and heartbreak. The sense of humor Alice brings to the story makes it all the more poignant and real.

\$5 Suggested Donation / Refreshments

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## A Weekend with our Resident

### 🌿 Writing Essentials

A Writing Workshop / Pioneer Home Manager's Residence  
Saturday, December 5, 9:00 to Noon and 2:00 to 4:00

Plot, character, dialogue, and metaphor are essential aspects of writing prose, both fiction or nonfiction. Award-winning writer Alice Pung will offer exercises to help you understand and hone these skills. Beginning and experienced writers welcome. Come expecting to write and share your work.

Limited to 12 people. \$30 / Discount for anyone attending all three weekend events.

### 🌿 Leaving Home / Finding Home / Knowing Home

A Community Conversation with Alice Pung  
December 6th, 2:00–4:30 p.m. / Southeast Alaska Career Center

Alice Pung's family left the killing fields of Cambodia to make a new home for themselves in Australia. The home they've found is worlds apart from the one they left behind.

Many Sitkans have left other places behind to make this place their home. But Sitka is also home to people who have known this place for thousands of years.

Join Alice and other Sitkans for a conversation about home—where it is, how we define it and how it defines us, what we lose when we leave it behind, what we gain when we find it anew, what we can learn from people who know it deeply through generations.

Limited to 20 people. \$10 suggested donation. Refreshments.

### 🌿 Reading and Dessert Finale

Sunday, December 6, 7:30 pm / Southeast Alaska Career Center

Come to Alice's last Sitka reading, featuring some of her new work, and enjoy a panoply of desserts. \$10 tickets available at Old Harbor Books and at the door.

In coming months, we'll be hosting more writers' residencies with similar activities. Check our [website](#) for writer profiles.



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