



ISLAND INSTITUTE  
WRITER-IN-RESIDENCE

thúy lê

FEBRUARY, 2010

**BOOKS**

*The Gangster We Are  
All Looking For*

## Meet the Author Reading

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD, 7:00 P.M. / KETTLESON LIBRARY

thúy lê, United States Artists Ford Fellow, is a novelist, poet and solo performance artist. She left her native Vietnam by boat in 1978 with her family and settled in Southern California. lê writes about the experiences of Vietnamese refugees living in the U. S., in her words, the “floating casualties of history.” Her well-received first novel, *The Gangster We Are All Looking For*, chronicles the life of a Vietnamese girl growing up in California. lê’s Alaska residency is made possible through Alaska AIR, a collaboration between United States Artists and the Rasmuson Foundation.

\$5 Suggested Donation / Refreshments

## Other Community Events

### 🌿 Writing Through the Senses

A WRITING WORKSHOP / SOUTHEAST ALASKA CAREER CENTER  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 9:00 TO NOON AND 2:00 TO 4:00

When we encounter writing that compels us it often has as much to do with our senses—sight, sound, taste, touch, and smell—being awakened as by our minds being engaged.

In this workshop we will focus on how to use the senses as a guide for bringing life to the page. Through writing exercises, short readings, and discussions of student work, we will create narratives that have the rhythm and feel of life, animated by imagination and illuminated by our own body’s experience of being in the world. All are welcome.

Limited to 12 people (sign up in advance). \$30

### 🌿 Memory, Writing, and Resistance

A CONVERSATION WITH THÚY LÊ  
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH, 3:00–5:00 P.M. / SOUTHEAST ALASKA CAREER CENTER

thúy’s work stems in part from her own experience as a child refugee of the Vietnam War, and is deeply informed by her concern for the ways in which the upheavals of war last for generations. The issues that compel her—the plight of refugees; the profound and lasting effects on individuals and the environment; the contested nature of how and whether a war is remembered—do so because they impact so many.

In order for the impact of war to be absorbed, its realities must be conveyed on a human scale.

thúy invites Sitkans to join her to discuss how writing can be an act of resistance; how learning an alphabet can lend itself to restoring a fractured world; how memory, coupled with imagination, can allow us to revisit or enter into a moment as if for the first time; and why it is so necessary to be able to imagine the world anew.

Limited to 20 people (sign up in advance). \$10 suggested donation. Refreshments.

### 🌿 Reading and Dessert Finale

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH, 7:00 PM / SOUTHEAST ALASKA CAREER CENTER

Come to thúy’s last Sitka reading, featuring some of her new work, and enjoy a buffet full of desserts. \$10 admission at the door.

In April, we’ll be hosting another writer-in-residence with similar activities. Check our [website](#) for writer profiles.



AN ISLAND INSTITUTE PROGRAM IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ALASKA AIR,  
A UNITED STATES ARTISTS AND RASMUSON FOUNDATION COLLABORATION.

MORE INFORMATION: 747-3794 / ISLAND@AK.NET / [WWW.ISLANDINSTITUTEALASKA.ORG](http://WWW.ISLANDINSTITUTEALASKA.ORG)