

## **Rachel Ikins**

### **Pondering Drought**

My feet beat time, a road pulse,  
Water streaks my face, ticks my glasses, fills my hands.  
All the showers I skipped.  
All the sinks of dirty dish water saved over with added soap.  
All the brutal afternoons  
I stood with my hoses, pinched my thumb numb over nozzle as I pretended to be a cloud,  
a sky, dropping water into Earth's empty cracks.

**Rachael Ikins** is a 2016/18 Pushcart, 2013/18 CNY Book Award nominee, 2018 Independent Book Award winner, & 2019 Vinnie Ream & 2019/2021 Faulkner finalist. A graduate of Syracuse University she is a Finger Lakes born author/illustrator of nine books in multiple genres from fantasy to memoir and from chap to full length poetry collections. Her art art has won prizes and has hung in galleries from CNY to Washington DC. She is a member of NLAPW, Associated Artists of CNY and Just Poets. She works as an editor at Clare Songbirds Publishing House. Find her @rzikins.author.artist Instagram@nestl493 on Twitter At Rachael Ikins Books and Poetry on FaceBook and Ask the Girl Arts