

State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** Vermont is enriched by artists who live among its residents as neighbors, colleagues and friends; and
- WHEREAS,** Vermont has supported the creative output of its diversity of artists for more than two generations; and
- WHEREAS,** Vermont has a rich poetic tradition and throughout its history has been home to numerous nationally and internationally recognized poets; and
- WHEREAS,** it is appropriate for Vermont to recognize and promote poets and poetry as one of the many artistic disciplines that enhance Vermont's quality of life; and
- WHEREAS,** Robert Frost was declared Poet Laureate in 1961 upon the adoption of Joint House Resolution 54 by the General Assembly, a position he retained for 25 years following his death in 1963; and
- WHEREAS,** in 1988, Governor Madeleine Kunin established a new position by signing Executive Order No 69 and, in 1989, subsequently named Galway Kinnell as the first State Poet for a term of four years; and
- WHEREAS,** every four years since the Vermont Arts Council has convened a distinguished panel of humanists, poets, historians and Vermonters to nominate a new poet to the Governor; and
- WHEREAS,** Mary Ruefle is a writer of worldwide recognition who lives in Bennington, Vermont; and
- WHEREAS,** Mary Ruefle received a BA in Literature from Bennington College and has taught at Vermont College of Fine Arts and the University of Iowa Writers' Workshop; and
- WHEREAS,** Mary Ruefle has also published a comic book, *Go Home and Go to Bed!*, and is an erasure artist, whose treatments of nineteenth century texts have been exhibited in museums and galleries and published in *A Little White Shadow*; and
- WHEREAS,** Mary Ruefle is the author of many books, including *Dunce*; *My Private Property*; *Trances of the Blast*; *Madness, Rack, and Honey: Collected Lectures*; and

WHEREAS,

Mary Ruefle has been a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award in Criticism, and Selected Poems and has won the William Carlos Williams Award from the Poetry Society of America; and

WHEREAS,

Mary Ruefle has been the recipient of numerous honors, including the Robert Creeley Award, an Award in Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, a Guggenheim fellowship, a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship, and a Whiting Award.

NOW, THEREFORE,

I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, hereby name

MARY RUEFLE

Vermont Poet Laureate



Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 28th day of October, A.D. 2019.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Philip B. Scott'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Philip B. Scott
Governor

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Brittney L. Wilson'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Brittney L. Wilson
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs