

Shelley Rose  
**Sierra Golden at  
 Gas Works Park in  
 Seattle, Wash.**

# INTO THE DEPTHS

Fisherpoet Sierra Golden publishes her first poetry collection, 'The Slow Art'

By **RYAN HUME**  
 FOR COAST WEEKEND

**L**ike a trawler's crew in search of rockfish, Seattle-area poet Sierra Golden's first collection mines the depths. Plunging the reader into the physical world of maritime labor and the bliss and hardships of a life at sea (among other homes), Golden pulls up unique emotional revelations from these experiences.

The seasoned FisherPoet, winner of the 2018 Dorothy Brunzman Poetry Prize, will support her new book, "The Slow Art," at the 2019 FisherPoets Gathering, taking place Friday through Sunday, Feb. 22 through 24.

Coast Weekend spoke with Golden by email in anticipation of her upcoming appearances. This interview has been edited and condensed for length.

**Coast Weekend: First, could you explain what the title of your book, "The Slow Art," means to you?**

**Sierra Golden:** Those words first came to me while I was writing the poem "Under the Madrone." In that poem,

I explore the idea of boat building as a metaphor for relationships and for love. I specifically say, "the slow art of bending ribs." I see a shipwright attentively cutting, steaming and bending a plank that will be shaped into a wooden boat's rib. I imagine it's a process where you can go too far, and then one is left with a broken thing.

I think relationships are the same way — we have to learn "the slow art" of loving someone. We must be patient and attentive and also strong and creative and demanding, and then the relationship might become a thing as beautiful and useful as a boat.

**CW: You've published poems in literary journals all over the country ... Is this your first collection?**

**SG:** Yes. I've also published a chapbook called "Aristotle's Lantern," but it's basically a shorter, less polished version of "The Slow Art." In the music world, "Aristotle's Lantern" would be my EP and "The Slow Art" would be my first album.

**CW: From the context of your work, it seems like you have been steeped**



Jeff Golden

From left: Tyler Jones, Sierra Golden and Josh Corliss aboard the F/V Challenger with a deckload of pink salmon in Southeast Alaska in 2013.