

VOICES

BY DESIGN

READINGS, CONVERSATIONS, AND PERFORMANCE
AT COFFEE BY DESIGN, 1 DIAMOND STREET



FINDING FAITH IN THE CHOICE TO LIVE

An Evening with Maya Williams

Suicide is often framed as betrayal, even though we live in a world that betrays us. When this world tells us that death is better, what does it mean to have faith in life? *Judas & Suicide* is a poetry collection navigating religion and suicidality. It approaches these topics through the lens of Black family and community, sadness, medication, sexual violence, the prison industrial complex, media, and Bible verses. *Judas & Suicide* explores how to be convinced to stay alive without feeling obligated to.

Maya Williams (ey/they/she) is a religious Black multiracial nonbinary suicide survivor who is currently the seventh poet laureate of Portland, Maine. Their debut collection *Judas & Suicide* is available now via Game Over Books. Maya was one of three artists of color selected to represent Maine in The Kennedy Center's Arts Across America series in 2020. Maya was also selected as one of The Advocate's Champions of Pride in 2022. You can follow more of their work at mayawilliamspoet.com

*Presented in partnership with Print: A Bookstore
and the Yellow Tulip Project*

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 @ 6:00PM
(DOORS OPEN @ 5:30)
COFFEE BY DESIGN
1 DIAMOND STREET, PORTLAND

