

INTRODUCING THE SRPR ILLINOIS POET:

IRA SUKRUNGRUANG



Chicago-born writer, Ira Sukrungruang, is the author of the memoirs *Southside Buddhist* and *Talk Thai: The Adventures of Buddhist Boy*, the short story collection *The Melting Season*, and the poetry collection *In Thailand It Is Night*. His collection of essays, *Buddha's Dog and Other Meditations*, was published in March 2018 by University of Tampa Press. He is the coeditor of two anthologies on the topic of obesity: *What Are You Looking At? The First Fat Fiction Anthology* and *Scot Over, Skinny: The Fat Nonfiction Anthology*. He is the recipient of the 2015 American Book Award, New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship in Nonfiction Literature, an Arts and Letters Fellowship, and the Emerging Writer Fellowship. His work has appeared in many literary journals, including *Post Road*, *The Sun*, and *Creative Nonfiction*. He is one of the founding editors of *Sweet: A Literary Confection* (sweetlit.com), and he teaches in the MFA program at University of South Florida. For more information about him, please visit: www.buddhistboy.com.
