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## *Dust*, a spoken word poem by Guante

Kyle Tran Myhre

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## COMMUNITY VOICE

Video recording of spoken word poem *Dust*, by Guante

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JH4yn-F0B44>

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In "Dust," spoken word poet Kyle "Guante" Tran Myhre crafts a multi-vocal exploration of the connections between the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II and the current struggles against xenophobia in general and Islamophobia specifically. Weaving together personal narrative, quotes from multiple voices, and "verse journalism" (a term coined by Gwendolyn Brooks), the poem seeks to bridge past and present in order to inform a more just future. Find more from Guante at [www.guante.info](http://www.guante.info).

Kyle "Guante" Tran Myhre is an MC, two-time National Poetry Slam champion, activist and educator based in Minneapolis, MN. His work explores the relationships between identity, power, and resistance, and has been featured on Upworthy, Welcome to Night Vale, Everyday Feminism, BBC Radio 6 Music, MSNBC, the Huffington Post, and beyond. Garnering over ten million views online, Guante has also performed live at the United Nations, the Soundset Hip Hop Festival, and countless colleges, universities, and conferences.

Whether deconstructing traditional notions of masculinity, challenging dominant narratives related to race and racism, or just telling stories about the different jobs he's had, Guante strives to cultivate a deeper, more critical engagement with social justice issues, one based in both empathy and agency. To that end, he serves as a teaching artist on the rosters of TruArtSpeaks and COMPAS, and regularly facilitates workshops and classes on a range of subjects.

Guante completed his Masters studies at the University of Minnesota with a focus on spoken word, critical pedagogy, and social justice education in 2016. His debut book, a mixtape-style exploration of the intersections of art and social justice called "A Love Song, A Death Rattle, A Battle Cry," is available now.