

Awaken LOVE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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AWAKEN LOVE DEBUTS VALENTINE'S DAY IN NYC **Poetry and Visual Art Collaboration by Leseliey Rose** **and Stephanie Holloway Explores Love as Practice,** **Justice, and Collective Care**

"In a cultural moment defined by fragmentation, this work positions love as relational responsibility....Rose's poems remind us that love can be both inquiry and repair."
-Lisa Weinert, Author and Founder of Narrative Healing: Awaken the Power of Your Voice.

NEW YORK, NY — As public discourse grows increasingly polarized and communities seek new forms of connection, a new poetry chapbook proposes love as an intentional practice rather than sentiment. "More than 128 million people tuned into Bad Bunny's 2026 Super Bowl halftime show, embracing his message of unity and affirming that the only thing stronger than hate is love," notes author Leseliey Rose. **Awaken LOVE**, written by Aspen Ascend Fellow and national nonprofit CEO Leseliey Rose and featuring abstract artwork by visual artist Stephanie Holloway, launches February 14, 2026 in New York City. "This principle lies at the very heart of **Awaken LOVE**," Rose adds.

The collection presents 15 poems exploring love as courage, belonging, creativity, faith, and liberation. Rose, a public health strategist and a founder of Birth Detroit and Birth Center Equity, brings decades of community-centered work into her literary debut. Holloway's visual compositions accompany the text, creating a dialogue between image and language.

Author and Artist Available for Interview

Topics include:

- Love as creative and political practice
- Poetry and somatic awareness
- Creative work and community healing
- Identity and authorship as Black women creatives
- Collaborative art-making
- What it means to create as Black queer artists today

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Events

Feb 14 — NYC Valentine's Day Launch Brunch

Feb 15–17 — NYC Readings & Community Events

March 1 — Online Workshop with Narrative Healing (proceeds support Critical Rent Assistance, Neighbor-to-neighbor support in Central Minneapolis)

Book Details

AWAKEN LOVE

Poetry by Leseliey Rose | Artwork by Stephanie Holloway

Self-published | January 16, 2026

Hardcover ISBN: 979-8-218-90741-9 | \$24.95

Paperback ISBN: 979-8-218-92666-3 | \$17.95

More Information

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About the Authors



LESELIEY ROSE is a poet, social entrepreneur, and professional dreamer whose work centers love as a force for healing, connection, and justice. Her poetry explores the intersections of identity, belonging, and the radical act of choosing love in a world rife with division. **Awaken LOVE** is her debut poetry chapbook.

STEPHANIE HOLLOWAY is a visual artist whose abstract work explores color, emotion, and the ineffable qualities of human connection. Stephanie's collaboration with Leseliey on **Awaken LOVE** represents a deepening of their creative partnership as life partners and co-creators.

Together, Leseliey and Stephanie create work that celebrates love in all its forms—as tenderness, as courage, as justice, as healing, as liberation.

