

American Academy of Arts and Letters

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NEWS RELEASE

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THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND LETTERS ANNOUNCES 2010 LITERATURE AWARD WINNERS

New York, March 10, 2010 – The American Academy of Arts and Letters announced today the names of 16 writers who will receive its 2010 awards in literature. The awards will be presented in New York in May at the Academy's annual Ceremonial. The literature prizes, totaling \$147,500, honor both established and emerging writers of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. The Academy's 250 members nominate candidates, and a rotating committee of writers selects winners. This year's committee members were Philip Levine, Romulus Linney, Rosanna Warren, and Joy Williams.

Award of Merit Medal for Poetry

GERALD STERN

A medal and \$10,000 given once every six years to an outstanding poet.

Academy Awards in Literature

Seven Academy Awards in Literature given to honor exceptional accomplishment in any genre. This year, the awards of \$7500 each will be presented to

**BLAKE BAILEY · PETER COLE · STEVE ERICKSON · PETER EVERWINE
YOUNG JEAN LEE · BRUCE SMITH · NATASHA WIMMER**

Benjamin H. Danks Award

JENNY SCHWARTZ

\$20,000 to recognize a talented, young playwright.

E. M. Forster Award

DAN RHODES

\$20,000 to a young writer from the United Kingdom or Ireland for a stay in the United States. Award jury: Margaret Drabble, Alison Lurie, Paul Muldoon

Sue Kaufman Prize for First Fiction

JOSH WEIL

\$5000 for the best work of first fiction (novel or short stories) published in 2009.

for *The New Valley*

Katherine Anne Porter Award

TIM O'BRIEN

\$20,000 to a writer of prose whose achievements and dedication have been demonstrated.

Rome Fellowships in Literature

JAY HOPLER

A one-year residency (2010-2011) at the American Academy in Rome.

HEATHER MCGOWAN

Rosenthal Family Foundation Award

DANIYAL MUEENUDDIN

\$10,000 to a young writer of considerable literary talent for a work published in 2009.

for *In Other Rooms, Other Wonders*

Harold D. Vursell Memorial Award

PETER SCHJELDAHL

\$10,000 to a writer whose work merits recognition for the quality of its prose style.

The American Academy of Arts and Letters was established in 1898 to “foster, assist, and sustain an interest in literature, music, and the fine arts.” Election to the Academy is considered the highest formal recognition of artistic merit in this country. Founding members include William Merritt Chase, Kenyon Cox, Daniel Chester French, Childe Hassam, Henry James, Theodore Roosevelt, Elihu Vedder, and Woodrow Wilson. The Academy is currently comprised of 250 of America’s leading voices in the fields of Art, Architecture, Literature, and Music. The Academy presents exhibitions of art, architecture, and manuscripts; and readings and performances of new musicals throughout the year, and is located in three landmark buildings designed by McKim, Mead & White, Cass Gilbert, and Charles Pratt Huntington, on Audubon Terrace at 155 Street and Broadway, New York City.