

# American Academy of Arts and Letters

633 WEST 155 STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10032

Contact: Jane E. Bolster | [academy@artsandletters.org](mailto:academy@artsandletters.org)

(212) 368-5900 | [www.artsandletters.org](http://www.artsandletters.org)



## NEWS RELEASE

Press Contact: Cecilia Bonn

Cecilia Bonn Marketing and Communications

(212) 734-9754 | [CBonn@nyc.rr.com](mailto:CBonn@nyc.rr.com)

### THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND LETTERS ANNOUNCES NEWLY ELECTED MEMBERS AND AWARD WINNERS

New York, NY, April 14, 2010 – The American Academy of Arts and Letters will hold its annual induction and award ceremony in mid-May. J. D. McClatchy, president of the Academy, will conduct the presentation of awards in architecture, art, literature, and music. On behalf of the Academy, President McClatchy stated, “Our newly elected members are a remarkable group representing the splendid variety of excellence in the American arts. It is a pleasure to recognize their achievements, and the Academy is truly honored that they are joining us.” Secretary of the Academy, Rosanna Warren, will induct nine members into the 250-person organization: artists **Thomas Nozkowski** and **Peter Saul** and architect **Thom Mayne**; writers **Thomas McGuane**, **Richard Powers**, **Francine Prose**, and **Marilynne Robinson**; composers **Tania León** and **Fred Lerdahl**. President McClatchy will induct American Honorary members conductor **James Levine** and actor **Meryl Streep**, and Foreign Honorary members architects **Fumihiko Maki** and **Alvaro Siza**. Calvin Trillin will deliver the Blashfield Foundation Address, titled “Deadline Poet.” An exhibition of art, architecture, books, and manuscripts by new members and recipients of awards will be on view at the Academy’s galleries from May 20 to June 13.

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. Each year, the Academy gives nearly one million dollars in awards to artists, architects, writers, and composers. The Academy presents exhibitions of art, architecture, and manuscripts, and subsidizes readings and performances of new musicals. The 112-year-old organization 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.

#### Newly Elected Members of the Academy

##### Art

**THOM MAYNE**

**THOMAS NOZKOWSKI**

**PETER SAUL**

##### Literature

**THOMAS MCGUANE**

**RICHARD POWERS**

**FRANCINE PROSE**

**MARILYNNE ROBINSON**

##### Music

**TANIA LEÓN**

**FRED LERDAHL**



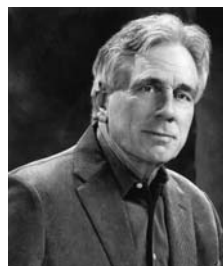
Thom Mayne



Thomas Nozkowski



Peter Saul



Thomas McGuane



Richard Powers



Francine Prose

#### American Honorary Members

**JAMES LEVINE**

**MERYL STREEP**

#### Foreign Honorary Members

**FUMIHIKO MAKI**

**ALVARO SIZA**



Marilynne Robinson



Tania León



Fred Lerdahl

## Newly Elected Members of the Academy

Composer **Tania León** was born in Havana, Cuba, in 1943. She was educated at Carlos Alfredo Peyrellade Conservatory and New York University. She lives in New York and is a professor of composition at Brooklyn College Conservatory of Music and Distinguished Professor of the City University of New York. Ms. León has received commissions from American Composers Orchestra, Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, Dance Theatre of Harlem, and New World Symphony. Her principal works include the opera *Scourge of the Hyacinths* and orchestral works, *Horizons*, and *Ácana*.

Composer **Fred Lerdahl** was born in Madison, Wisconsin, in 1943 and was educated at Lawrence University and Princeton University. He lives in Massachusetts, has taught at universities around the country, and is Professor of Music at Columbia University. His commissions include works for the Fromm Foundation, Spoleto Festival, and the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. His orchestral works include *Beyond the Realm of Bird*, *Waves*, *Without Fanfare*, and *Spirals*.

Architect **Thom Mayne** was born in Waterbury, Connecticut, in 1943. He was educated at the University of Southern California School of Architecture and Harvard University Graduate School of Design. Mr. Mayne helped found the Southern California Institute of Architecture (SCI-ARC) in 1972. He is a founding partner in the Santa Monica-based practice, Morphosis, and he serves on the faculty at the University of California, Los Angeles. His projects include Diamond Ranch High School, Pomona, CA; Caltrans District 7 Headquarters, Los Angeles, CA; United States Courthouse, Eugene, OR; Federal Building, San Francisco, CA; and 41 Cooper Square, New York, NY.

Writer **Thomas McGuane** was born in Wyandotte, Michigan, in 1939. He was educated at Michigan State University, Yale University, and Stanford University. He resides in Montana. His fiction includes *The Sporting Club*, *Ninety-Two in the Shade*, *Nobody's Angel*, and *The Cadence of Grass*. Mr. McGuane has written short stories, non-fiction, and screenplays, including *The Missouri Breaks*.

Artist **Thomas Nozkowski** was born in Teaneck, New Jersey, in 1944 and was educated at the Cooper Union, New York. He lives in High Falls, NY and is a professor at The Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University. He has had solo exhibitions at The National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa; The Ludwig Museum, Koblenz, Germany; Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, DC; PaceWildenstein Gallery, New York; Stephen Friedman Gallery, London.

Writer **Richard Powers** was born in Evanston, Illinois, in 1957 and was educated at the University of Illinois. He is the Swanlund Professor of English at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. His fiction includes *Three Farmers on Their Way to a Dance*, *The Gold Bug Variations*, *Galatea 2.2*, *The Time of Our Singing*, *The Echo Maker: A Novel*, and *Generosity*.

Writer **Francine Prose** was born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1947 and was educated at Radcliffe College. She is Visiting Professor of Literature and Distinguished Writer in Residence at Bard College, and the former President of PEN American Center. Ms. Prose has written twelve novels, including *Household Saints*, *Blue Angel*, *A Changed Man*, and *Goldengrove*. Her nonfiction works include *Reading Like a Writer*, *Caravaggio: Painter of Miracles*, and *The Lives of the Muses: Nine Women and the Artists They Inspired*.

Writer **Marilynne Robinson** was born in Sandpoint, Idaho, in 1947. She was educated at Brown University and the University of Washington. She teaches at Iowa Writers' Workshop and has held a Dwight H. Terry Lectureship at Yale University. She is the author of the novels *Houskeeping*, *Gilead*, and *Home*. She has written the nonfiction books *Mother Country: Britain, the Welfare State, and Nuclear Pollution*, and *The Death of Adam: Essays on Modern Thought*.

Artist **Peter Saul** was born in San Francisco in 1934. He was educated at Washington University and the California School of Fine Arts. Mr. Saul has had solo exhibitions at Leo Galerie du Centre, Paris; Nolan/Eckman Gallery, New York, NY; Galerie Aurel Scheibler, Cologne, Germany; Musée Paul Valéry, Sette, France; Koenig Inc., New York, NY; David Nolan Gallery, New York, NY; Galerie Charlotte Moser, Geneva, Switzerland; and retrospectives at the Orange County Museum of Art, Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, and New Orleans Contemporary Art Center.

## Award Recipients

### **Gold Medal for Drama**

*given for an entire body of work*

Romulus Linney

### **Gold Medal for Graphic Art**

*given for an entire body of work*

Ed Ruscha

### **Award for Distinguished Service to the Arts**

*given for notable service to the arts*

Bill Moyers

### **Award of Merit Medal for Poetry**

*and \$10,000 to an outstanding poet*

Gerald Stern

### **Medal for Spoken Language**

*given for excellence in public speaking*

Hal Holbrook

### **William Dean Howells Medal**

*given for the most distinguished American novel*

*every five years*

Peter Matthiessen for *Shadow Country*

### **Arnold W. Brunner Memorial Prize in Architecture**

*\$5,000 for a significant contribution to*

*architecture as an art*

Michael Van Valkenburgh

## Awards in Architecture

### **Academy Awards in Architecture**

*\$7,500 in recognition of work characterized*

*by a strong personal direction*

Stephen Cassell and Adam Yarinsky of ARO

Michael Meredith and Hilary Sample of MOS

*\$7,500 to acknowledge an American who explores architecture*

*through any medium of expression*

Michael Sorkin

## Awards in Art

### **Academy Awards in Art**

*\$7,500 to honor and encourage creative work*

Gabrielle Bakker, Lothar Osterburg, Julianne Swartz

Tom Uttech, Stanley Whitney

### **Jimmy Ernst Award in Art**

*\$5,000 to an artist whose lifetime contribution to his or her vision has been consistent and dedicated*

William Christenberry

### **Willard L. Metcalf Award in Art**

*\$10,000 to a young artist of great promise*

John Grade

### **Rosenthal Family Foundation Award in Art**

*\$10,000 to a young painter of distinction*

Aaron Gilbert

## Awards in Literature

### **Academy Awards in Literature**

*\$7,500 to honor and encourage creative work*

Blake Bailey, Peter Cole, Steve Erickson

Peter Everwine, Young Jean Lee

Bruce Smith, Natasha Wimmer

### **Benjamin H. Danks Award**

*\$20,000 to a talented young playwright*

Jenny Schwartz

### **E. M. Forster Award in Literature**

*\$20,000 to a young writer from the United Kingdom*

*or Ireland for a stay in the United States*

Dan Rhodes

### **Sue Kaufman Prize for First Fiction**

*\$5,000 for the best published first novel*

*or collection of stories of 2009*

Josh Weil, *The New Valley*

### **Katherine Anne Porter Award**

*\$20,000 to a writer of prose whose achievements*

*and dedication have been demonstrated*

Tim O'Brien

Awards in Literature (*continued*)

**Rome Fellowships in Literature**

*to young writers of exceptional promise for a year's residence at the American Academy in Rome*

Jay Hopler

Heather McGowan

**Rosenthal Family Foundation Award in Literature**

*\$10,000 to a young writer for a work of fiction published in 2009*

Daniyal Mueenuddin, *In Other Rooms, Other Wonders*

**Harold D. Vursell Memorial Award**

*\$10,000 to a writer in recognition of the quality of their prose*

Peter Schjeldahl

Awards in Music

**Academy Awards in Music**

*\$7,500 to honor and encourage creative work*

Daniel Asia, David Felder

Pierre Jalbert, James Primosch

**Walter Hinrichsen Award in Music**

*for the publication of a work by a composer*

Paula Matthusen

**Charles Ives Fellowships in Music**

*\$15,000 to young composers of extraordinary gifts*

Anna Clyne

Michael Djupstrom

**Charles Ives Scholarships in Music**

*\$7,500 to composition students of great promise*

Shawn Allison, Jesse Benjamin Jones, Eric Nathan

Clint Needham, Jude Vaclavik, Roger Zare

**Wladimir and Rhoda Lakond Award**

*\$10,000 to a promising mid-career composer*

James Lee III

**Goddard Lieberson Fellowships in Music**

*\$15,000 to young composers of extraordinary gifts*

Philippe Bodin

Aaron J. Travers

Awards in Music (*continued*)

**Richard Rodgers Awards in Musical Theater**

*to provide financial support for staged readings*

*Buddy's Tavern* by Raymond De Felitta, Alison Louise Hubbard, and Kim Oler

*Rocket Science* by Patricia Cotter, Jason Rhyne, and Stephen Weiner

Photo credits:

Fred Lerdahl ©Peter Schaaf

Thomas McGuane ©Stephen Collector

Thomas Nozkowski ©Robin Holland

Richard Powers ©Marion Ettlinger

Francine Prose ©Stephanie Berger

Marilynne Robinson ©Kelly Ruth Anderson Winter