

American Academy of Arts and Letters

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NEWS RELEASE

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THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND LETTERS ANNOUNCES 2012 LITERATURE AWARD WINNERS

New York, March 14, 2012 – The American Academy of Arts and Letters announced today the names of 18 writers who will receive its 2012 awards in literature. The awards will be presented in New York in May at the Academy's annual Ceremonial. The literature prizes, totaling \$160,000, 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 Paul Auster, Louis Begley, Robert Brustein, Louise Glück, Philip Levine, Alison Lurie, and Joy Williams.

Arts and Letters Awards in Literature

Eight Arts and Letters Awards in Literature honor exceptional accomplishment in any genre. This year, the awards of \$7500 each will be presented to

**ANDRE DUBUS III · ADAM HOCHSCHILD · DAVID LINDSAY-ABAIRE
CHRISTOPHER MIDDLETON · JULIE OTSUKA · MICHAEL PALMER
FREDERICK SEIDEL · TIMOTHY SNYDER**

Michael Braude Award for Light Verse

of \$5000 for work, in English, from any country.

ROGER ANGELL

E. M. Forster Award

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

DAVID MITCHELL

Sue Kaufman Prize for First Fiction

\$5000 for the best work of first fiction (novel or short stories) published in 2011.

ISMET PRICIC

for *Shards*

Katherine Anne Porter Award

\$20,000 given biennially to a prose writer whose achievements and dedication to the literary profession have been demonstrated.

MAUREEN HOWARD

Rome Fellowships in Literature

A one-year residency (2012-2013) at the American Academy in Rome.

**LUCY CORIN
JESSICA FISHER**

Rosenthal Family Foundation Award

\$10,000 to a young writer of considerable literary talent for a work published in 2011.

TEJU COLE
for *Open City*

Harold D. Vursell Memorial Award

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

PETER CAREY

Thornton Wilder Prize for Translation

\$20,000 to a practitioner, scholar, or patron who has made a significant contribution to the art of literary translation.

MICHAEL HOFMANN

The Morton Dauwen Zabel Award

\$10,000 to a critic with progressive, original, and experimental tendencies.

ANDREW SARRIS

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. It 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.