

American Academy of Arts and Letters

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NEWS RELEASE

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THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND LETTERS ANNOUNCES NEWLY ELECTED MEMBERS

New York, NY, March 12, 2012 – The American Academy of Arts and Letters will hold its annual induction and award ceremony in mid-May. Henry N. Cobb, president of the Academy, will conduct the presentation of awards in architecture, art, literature, and music. Secretary of the Academy, Billie Tsien, will induct ten new members into the 250-person organization: artists **Lynda Benglis**, **Robert Gober**, and **Kara Walker** and architects **Elizabeth Diller** and **Kenneth Frampton**; writers **Michael Chabon**, **Jonathan Franzen**, and **Jhumpa Lahiri**; composers **Stephen Jaffe** and **Tobias Picker**. President Cobb will induct artist **Anish Kapoor** and composer **Jo Kondo** to Foreign Honorary membership. Chuck Close will deliver the Blasfield Foundation Address, titled “How We Got Here.” An exhibition of art, architecture, books, and manuscripts by new members and recipients of awards will be on view in the Academy’s galleries from May 17 to June 10.



Lynda Benglis



Michael Chabon



Elizabeth Diller



Kenneth Frampton

Newly Elected Members of the Academy

Art

LYNDA BENGLIS
ELIZABETH DILLER
KENNETH FRAMPTON
ROBERT GOBER
KARA WALKER

Literature

MICHAEL CHABON
JONATHAN FRANZEN
JHUMPA LAHIRI

Music

STEPHEN JAFFE
TOBIAS PICKER

American Honorary Member

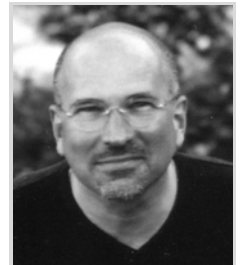
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Foreign Honorary Members

ANISH KAPOOR
JO KONDO
YAYOI KUSAMA



Jonathan Franzen



Robert Gober



Stephen Jaffe



Jhumpa Lahiri



Tobias Picker



Kara Walker

Newly Elected Members of the Academy

Artist **Lynda Benglis** was born in Lake Charles, Louisiana, in 1941. She was educated at Newcomb College. She has recently exhibited at the Irish Museum of Art, Dublin; Le Consortium, France; the Museum of Art at the Rhode Island School of Design; New Museum, New York.

Writer **Michael Chabon** was born in Washington, D.C. in 1963. He was educated at Carnegie Mellon University, University of Pittsburgh, and University of California, Irvine. His recent work includes *The Final Solution*, *The Yiddish Policemen's Union*, *Gentlemen of the Road*, and *Manhood for Amateurs*. He won the Pulitzer Prize in 2001 for *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay*.

Architect **Elizabeth Diller** was born in Lodz, Poland, in 1954. She was educated at Cooper Union School of Architecture. She is a Professor of Architecture at Princeton University. Her recent projects include the Boston Institute of Contemporary Art, the redesign of Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall, and the expansion of the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden.

Architect and critic **Kenneth Frampton** was born in Woking, United Kingdom, in 1930. He was educated at Guildford School of Art and the Architectural Association School of Architecture, London. He is the Ware Professor of Architecture at Columbia University. His writing includes *Modern Architecture: A Critical History*, *Studies in Tectonic Culture*, and *The Evolution of 20th-Century Architecture: A Synoptic Account*.

Writer **Jonathan Franzen** was born in Western Springs, Illinois, in 1959. He was educated at Swarthmore College. He has written four novels – *The Twenty-Seventh City*, *Strong Motion*, *The Corrections*, and *Freedom*, and two nonfiction books, *How to Be Alone*, and *The Discomfort Zone*.

Artist **Robert Gober** was born in Wallingford, Connecticut, in 1954. He was educated at Middlebury College and the Tyler School of Art in Rome. He has recently curated work at the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, and the 2012 Whitney Biennial. He has recently exhibited at the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Denver.

Composer **Stephen Jaffe** was born in Washington, D.C. in 1954. He was educated at the University of Pennsylvania. He is the Mary and James H. Semans Professor of Music Composition at Duke University. His recent compositions include *Concerto for Cello and Orchestra*, *SONATA (in Four Parts)*, *Cithera mea (Evocations)*, and *Light Dances (Chamber Concerto No. 2)*.

Writer **Jhumpa Lahiri** was born in London, United Kingdom, in 1967. She was educated at Barnard College and Boston University. She has published three works of fiction: *Interpreter of Maladies*, *The Namesake*, and *Unaccustomed Earth*. *Interpreter of Maladies* received the 2000 Pulitzer Prize.

Composer **Tobias Picker** was born in New York City in 1954. He was educated at the Manhattan School of Music, Juilliard School, and Princeton University. Among his principal works are *An American Tragedy*, *Thérèse Raquin*, *Not Even the Rain*, and *Tres sonetos de amore*.

Artist **Kara Walker** was born in Stockton, California, in 1969. She was educated at Atlanta College of Art and Rhode Island School of Design. She is a Professor of Visual Arts at Columbia University. She has recently exhibited at Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; Museum of Modern Art, Fort Worth, Texas; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

THE ACADEMY

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,” and is chartered by Congress. Founding members include William Merritt Chase, Kenyon Cox, Daniel Chester French, Childe Hassam, Henry James, Theodore Roosevelt, Elihu Vedder, and Woodrow Wilson. Each year, the Academy gives approximately one million dollars in awards to artists, architects, writers, and composers. It presents exhibitions of art, architecture, and manuscripts, and subsidizes readings and performances of new musicals. The 114-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.