

# American Academy of Arts and Letters

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND LETTERS ANNOUNCES

#### 2013 LITERATURE AWARD WINNERS AND INAUGURAL E. B. WHITE AWARD

New York, March 13, 2013 – The American Academy of Arts and Letters announced today the names of 19 writers who will receive its 2013 awards in literature. The awards will be presented in New York in May at the Academy's annual Ceremonial. The literature prizes, totaling \$175,000, 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 Louis Begley, Louise Glück, A. R. Gurney, Alison Lurie, Francine Prose, Mark Strand and Charles Wright.

The inaugural E.B. White Award of \$10,000 is given to a writer for achievement in children's literature, a new direction for the Academy. Louise Erdrich, Donald Hall, and Alison Lurie comprised this year's committee.

#### Arts and Letters Awards in Literature

Eight Arts and Letters Awards in Literature honor exceptional accomplishment in any genre. This year, the awards of \$7,500 each will be presented to

**KATHERINE BOO · JOANNA KLINK · NEIL LABUTE · BILL MCKIBBEN  
BRUCE NORRIS · DARRYL PINCKNEY · D. A. POWELL · BRAD WATSON**

#### Benjamin H. Danks Award

of \$20,000 is given every three years to an exceptional young playwright.

**AMY HERZOG**

#### 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: Anita Desai, Paul Theroux.

**ADAM FOULDS**

#### Sue Kaufman Prize for First Fiction

\$5,000 for the best work of first fiction (novel or short stories) published in 2012.

**KEVIN POWERS**  
for *The Yellow Birds*

#### Award of Merit Medal

and \$10,000 for an outstanding short story writer, given every six years.

**LYDIA DAVIS**

#### Addison M. Metcalf Award

of \$10,000 to a young writer of fiction, nonfiction, drama or poetry.

**MISCHA BERLINSKI**

#### Rome Fellowships in Literature

A one-year residency (2013–2014) at the American Academy in Rome.

**PETER BOGNANNI  
PETER STRECKFUS**

**Rosenthal Family Foundation Award**

\$10,000 to a young writer of considerable literary talent for a work published in 2012.

**CLAIRE VAYE WATKINS**

for *Battleborn*

**John Updike Award**

of \$20,000 is given biennially to a writer in mid-career whose work has demonstrated consistent excellence.

**JENNIFER EGAN**

**Harold D. Vursell Memorial Award**

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

**CHRISTOPHER BENFEY**

**E. B. White Award**

inaugural prize of \$10,000 to a writer for achievement in children's literature.

**NATALIE BABBITT**

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.