

Arts and Letters

Ceremonial

New Members and Recipients of Awards

May 24, 2023

at Three O'Clock

**American Academy of Arts and Letters
Ceremonial**

**New Members and Recipients of Awards
May 24, 2023, at Three O'Clock**

**Church of the Intercession
550 West 155 Street, New York, NY 10032**

A Note from the President

This year marks the 125th anniversary of the American Academy of Arts and Letters and the 100th anniversary of our home on Audubon Terrace in Washington Heights. These two momentous occasions are an ideal opportunity to think about our impact on the arts and to lay the groundwork for our future.

Our board of directors is working with the membership and staff to determine how we may best serve our mission, we're redesigning our website and refreshing our graphic identity, and we've hired a new curatorial team to expand our exhibitions and public programs.

We're also in the midst of a multiphase campus renovation masterplan to upgrade systems and improve accessibility and circulation. This includes renovating our beautiful auditorium, which is why, for the first time since 1942, today's annual induction and award ceremony is taking place offsite.

We are a community of artists, and my hope is that we may bring our collective creativity and wisdom to support the arts with vibrancy into the future.

We thank the Church of the Intercession for hosting today's ceremony, and hope that you will join us afterwards for a reception in our galleries on Audubon Terrace.

Kwame Anthony Appiah

Newly Elected Members of the Academy 6

Newly Elected American Honorary Members: Francis Ford Coppola, Frances McDormand 6

Newly Elected Foreign Honorary Members: Andrey Kurkov, Cecilia Vicuña 6

Department of Architecture: Maurice Cox, Merrill Elam, Michael Maltzan 7

Department of Art: Huma Bhabha, Shirin Neshat, Yvonne Rainer, Arlene Shechet 8

Department of Literature: Percival Everett, Vivian Gornick, Yiyun Li, Phillip Lopate, Lore Segal, Anna Deavere Smith 9

Department of Music: Adolphus Hailstork, Carman Moore, Roger Reynolds, Maria Schneider, Wadada Leo Smith, Pamela Z 11

Awards in Architecture 13

Arts and Letters Awards: Amale Andraos and Dan Wood, Fred Bernstein, Sean Canty, Roberto de Leon and Ross Primmer 13

Arnold W. Brunner Memorial Prize: W. G. Clark 14

Awards in Art 15

Arts and Letters Awards: Emily Jacir, Mary Miss, Lorraine O'Grady, Cameron Rowland, Cauleen Smith 15

Gwendolyn Knight Lawrence Award: Ouattara Watts 16

Jacob Lawrence Award: Sandy Rodriguez 17

Rosenthal Family Foundation Award: Tala Madani 17

Purchase Prize Placements, 2022–2023 18

Awards in Literature 19

Arts and Letters Awards: Jennifer Croft, Natalie Diaz, Forrest Gander, James Ijames, Mona Mansour, Joshua Prager, Hugh Raffles, Atsuro Riley 19

Blake-Dodd Prize: Masha Gessen 21

Benjamin Hadley Danks Award: Meghan O'Gieblyn 21

Sue Kaufman Prize for First Fiction: Morgan Talty 21

Addison M. Metcalf Award: Imbolo Mbue 22

Arthur Rense Poetry Prize: Shane McCrae 22

Rosenthal Family Foundation Award: Anna DeForest 22

John Updike Award: Hernan Diaz 23

Harold D. Vursell Memorial Award: Lauren Groff 23

E. B. White Award: Jacqueline Woodson 23

Award of Merit Medal for Drama: Bruce Norris 24

Awards in Music 25

Arts and Letters Awards: Eve Beglarian, David Serkin Ludwig, Nicole Mitchell, Roscoe Mitchell 25

Walter Hinrichsen Award: Shih-Hui Chen 26

Andrew Imbrie Award: Robert Honstein 26

Charles Ives Fellowships: Charles Peck, Peter Shin 27

Charles Ives Scholarships: Seare Ahmad Farhat, Jordyn Gallinek, Luke Haaksma, Ali Can Puskulcu, Harriet Steinke, Bethany Younge 27

Goddard Lieberon Fellowships: Andy Akiho, Zosha Di Castri 28

Marc Blitzstein Memorial Award: Missy Mazzoli and Royce Vavrek 28

Charles Ives Opera Prize: Laura Elise Schwendinger and Ginger Strand 29

Richard Rodgers Awards in Musical Theater: Dylan MarcAurele and Mike Ross, Maggie-Kate Coleman and Erato A. Kremmyda 29

The Blashfield Address: Andrey Kurkov 30

Highest Awards and Medals 31

Award for Distinguished Service to the Arts: Susan Unterberg 31

Gold Medal for Belles Lettres and Criticism: Helen Hennessy Vendler 31

Gold Medal for Painting: Faith Ringgold 32

About the American Academy of Arts and Letters 35

Members of the Academy 36

Board of Directors 40

Newly Elected American Honorary Members of the Academy

presented by Billie Tsien

Francis Ford Coppola

Francis Ford Coppola has been on “greatest living directors” lists since mid-career; later among the top ten, top five, then “greatest of all time.” His films have been called Shakespearean, especially the *Godfathers* and *Apocalypse Now*. Throughout his career, he has eschewed the limitations of any one style in the service of each project, and he keeps reinventing the works long after their release, restoring and re-editing cuts to achieve his conceptions. He is justifiably called the inheritor of the traditions of the novel, theater, and opera, and he has won all the awards the world gives filmmakers.

Frances McDormand

Throughout her career, Frances McDormand has made a name for herself playing gritty, raw, uncompromising women on stage and screen, for which she has won four Academy Awards, two Emmys, and one Tony. Her commitment to diversity in storytelling as a producer and her indelible portrayals of an unvarnished American reality have established her as one of the greatest dramatic artists of our time.

Newly Elected Foreign Honorary Members of the Academy

presented by Billie Tsien

Andrey Kurkov

A foremost novelist of Ukraine, Andrey Kurkov has an unrivaled, if unenviable, sense of national uncertainty and international conflict. From his bestselling *Death and the Penguin*, with its outlandish portrait of a newspaper “living obituary” writer whose subjects have a tendency

to die when he completes their commentaries, to the masterful *Grey Bees*, Kurkov’s exemplary work substantiates our surmise that humor allows us to find the humanity in the most harrowing of circumstances.

Cecilia Vicuña

Cecilia Vicuña’s work—ephemeral, sensuous, politically resonant—reminds us of the fragility of life and culture on this planet and of the interrelatedness of all living things. For over 50 years, her visual art, poetry, and activism have engaged deeply with Indigenous knowledge and have found forms that challenge colonial legacies. She is the unselfish, fearless, and much-needed comrade for us all.

Newly Elected Members of the Academy

Department of Architecture
presented by Billie Tsien

Maurice Cox

Maurice Cox has applied his passion for architecture to a public career in which he has shaped policy and planning in American cities including Charlottesville, Detroit, and Chicago. To each position he holds, Cox brings profound humanism and the conviction that architecture can transform communities for the better. He has shown that investment in long-term development through creative design and community engagement in underserved neighborhoods lifts all citizens up by creating a more equitable and just urban environment.

Merrill Elam

The consistently fresh and inventive work of Merrill Elam, in partnership with Mack Scogin, has been impressive ever since their first community libraries were realized near Atlanta over 30 years ago. Since then, they have produced a superb body of built work characterized by consistently fresh and inventive responses to a wide variety of programmatic challenges. With its brilliantly imaginative handling of material and detail, hers is an architecture that astonishes and delights.

Michael Maltzan

One of our most protean architectural protagonists, Michael Maltzan has maintained a consistent disciplinary ethic across a diversity of programs, scales, and contexts. He has designed the infrastructure of bridges and parks, as well as urban buildings that always prioritize civic engagement. His commitment to low-income housing reflects his fidelity to questions of equity, inclusion, and quality for those whose budgets rarely gain a voice in the city. He is both a critical thinker and skilled creative architect, and his body of work is a testament to an expanse of ideas.

Department of Art *presented by Ann Hamilton*

Huma Bhabha

At once reflective of classical and modern canons, Huma Bhabha's three-dimensional sculptures and reliefs engage cultural references far and wide. Across many continents, from science fiction to cartoons, her work addresses both local and "pluriversal" discourses. With a vast command of techniques, she is not fearful of the grotesque, working her media aggressively and allowing its materiality to speak through its own means and methods.

Shirin Neshat

Shirin Neshat's work in film, video, and photography addresses the relationship of the personal and the political, alienation and exile, and gendered forms of societal oppression and freedom. Her distinct visual language, characterized by the use of stark black and white imagery, calligraphy, and layered soundscapes, is a testament to the transformative potential of art to foster critical dialogues on identity, power, and representation.

Yvonne Rainer

Yvonne Rainer's work across dance, choreography, film, and memoir over the last 60 years has influenced and broken ground for generations of artists. As a founding member of Judson Dance Theater, Rainer, with her hard-boiled originality and work ethic, opened and created lasting bonds between the fields of dance and visual art.

Arlene Shechet

Arlene Shechet has been a creative force in sculptural media since the 1970s. She is best-known for her innovative work with clay that combines traditional ceramic techniques with experimental approaches to glazes, pedestals, and form. Her boundary-pushing approach consistently results in dynamic, highly tactile, and materially rich sculptures. In addition to her artistic work, Shechet is a respected teacher and curator.

Department of Literature *presented by Billie Tsien*

Percival Everett

Percival Everett is a trailblazing novelist, poet, and playwright for whom no subject is beyond reach. Writing about topics ranging from Greek mythology to Vietnam, to current U.S. migration, Everett has been dazzling readers with genre-defying narrative, acrobatic plot lines, emotion, humor, and just plain breathtaking genius since the 1980s. Percival Everett is one of the most innovative writers working today.

Vivian Gornick

Vivian Gornick's *Fierce Attachments*, first published in 1987, is an original and courageous exploration of her complicated relationship with her immigrant mother, and has long been esteemed as an American classic. In her other acclaimed books she has written about American communism, feminism, urban living, and the central place of literature in our lives. Whether personal or critical, her essays show her to be a master of the form. Her body of work is distinguished for its truthfulness, rigorous thinking, and intellectual passion.

Yiyun Li

Yiyun Li is a vivid, resourceful storyteller in books at once confessional and discreet. In settings as disparate as the Cultural Revolution and postwar France, she examines morality through complex characterizations and narratives. Her unsparing, fearless eye sculpts raw personal essays and subversive fiction into eloquent explorations of grief.

Phillip Lopate

Phillip Lopate is one of the most brilliant and original essayists now working. So varied are his modes (the personal essay, the memoir, the novel, the critical study) and so wide ranging his interests as to make his immense achievement difficult to characterize. His mind is supple, ardent, skeptical, capable of a tonic malice on occasion, but equally capable of articulate and passionate homage. He has sustained the lively openness of the student who observes and hypothesizes, refusing, admirably, to harden into the judge, that arbiter of standards and policies. He is a master, and also a joy to read.

Lore Segal

Lore Segal's historically rooted autobiographical novel, *Other People's Houses*, early on established her singular art. Her ironies are serious, subtle, and profound. Her sentences are subversively shattering while seemingly quizzical and detached. Her overflowing recent compendium of fiction and rumination, *The Journal I Did Not Keep*, gives the measure of her virtuosic yet forgiving imagination: knavery and folly, but never a knave or a fool.

Anna Deavere Smith

The plays of Anna Deavere Smith, written and performed in her groundbreaking documentary style, amplify real voices in the search for justice. Taking on a range of critical topics, from the criminal justice system to healthcare in America, Smith explores inequality through retelling the experiences of others with stories sharpened and inhabited. Her unique ability to transform the power of the spoken word has created an all-new form of activist theater.

Department of Music *presented by Augusta Read Thomas*

Adolphus Hailstork

Adolphus Hailstork's sublimely beautiful and ingeniously orchestrated works are deeply rooted in a hybrid African American musical tradition, while at the same time manifesting a stance of incredulity toward narratives of genre and cultural purity. The mosaic identity embedded in his work is encountered as an unending flow of emotional complexity that yields maximum creative depth, power, and surprise across the vast range of forces for which he has composed, from chamber to orchestra to opera.

Carman Moore

Carman Moore is a composer of dynamic grace and vision. Across more than five decades he has created works of immense and stirring range, from pensive spiritual *Meditations* to a conceptual pop music album about Dante and Beatrice, to his orchestral piece *Madiba* honoring the late Nelson Mandela. He is a passionate educator and believes in music's special power to help people envision better realities.

Roger Reynolds

Roger Reynolds has always been an independent and a maverick, establishing himself as a brilliant and tireless explorer of music's possibilities. His voluminous oeuvre, which is informed but not fettered by traditional models, encompasses solo pieces to multimedia amalgams of music, text, theater, and technology. His music bursts forth with power and poetry; it exudes a freshness that points to the future without forsaking the past.

Maria Schneider

Maria Schneider is a poet of the jazz orchestra. Her harmonies are colorful gems of orchestration and voicing, jewels in an unpredictable chain where flow is generous and transition seamless and of the moment. Her collaborations are original contributions to music and her takes on standards represent incisive yet lyrical rethinking. She has also been, through Congressional testimony and legal action, a generous advocate for independent artists.

Wadada Leo Smith

Wadada Leo Smith's forms and methods extend from his deep Delta roots to exhibit lushly drawn multiplicities that iconoclastically reassert the unity of the blues aesthetic with wide-ranging experimental impulses that far exceed the limits of musical genre. His scores are beautiful in their own right as artworks, but also fully functional guideposts to music whose fluid, heterophonic forms ask performers and listeners not only to engage in self-reflection, but to examine a larger picture of one's place in a world that demands both personal responsibility and collective action.

Pamela Z

Pamela Z is an inventive composer-performer who incorporates every corner of audio and video technology to tell surprising and often surreal stories, upending and reinventing established ideas of vocal music and performance. A magnetic presence who commands the stage, she uses sampled sound, video, and live electronic processing to weave a fascinating tapestry shot through with humor and subversion.

Awards in Architecture

presented by Billie Tsien

Arts and Letters Awards

Amale Andraos and Dan Wood

As a practice, WORK AC has brought wit, imagination, and intelligence to a body of work that is as deeply committed to social and environmental justice as it is to joy and form. Amale Andraos and Dan Wood epitomize serious play where inquiry and design operate in tandem to create ever-new possibilities that give agency to architecture. Their work embodies an optimism that lifts our aspirations but is grounded in the real challenges of today and the future.

Fred Bernstein

As both the venues and the voices of thoughtful architectural criticism are silenced, Fred Bernstein has continued to be a voice of clarity and cogent observation on how architecture affects our life and culture. For more than 30 years, his writing, free of jargon, commercialism, and obscure theory, has stood for integrity. He is deserving of this honor for his steadfast adherence to the truth.

Sean Canty

Sean Canty's body of work displays a salient consistency in that all projects draw from powerful archetypes whose figures and configurations are culturally legible and accessible. At the same time, he allows the introduction of anomalies—exceptional moments drawn from the site, programs, or unique conditions—to unleash challenges to the ideal types and platonic geometries that are the cornerstone of his work. The poignant results are deliberately strange as they defamiliarize the canons from which they draw inspiration.

Roberto de Leon and Ross Primmer

Founded by Roberto de Leon and Ross Primmer, de Leon & Primmer Architecture Workshop creates powerful, engaging work that is intensely local and quietly universal. Based in Louisville, Kentucky, de Leon and Primmer are focused on materiality and structure as articulations of place. They are masters across materials, each a new opportunity for expression and connection. They have built a distinct and visionary body of work that is inventive and restrained.

Arnold W. Brunner Memorial Prize in Architecture

W. G. Clark

After contributing to the office of Venturi & Rauch from 1968 to 1973, W. G. Clark established a practice of remarkable focus in Charleston, South Carolina. Realizing architecture of extraordinary tectonic clarity, each work is deeply connected to place. His architecture, like that of Louis Kahn, is an example of a modernity shaped by historic typology and human scale. For decades, he practiced while teaching, an example of a deep dedication to architectural education.

Awards in Art

presented by Mel Chin

Arts and Letters Awards

Emily Jacir

Emily Jacir is a Palestinian American artist who deals with issues of displacement, exile, and cultural identity through installation, video, photography, and text-based works. Her art is characterized by rigorous research and a powerful sense of empathy for her subjects. Her compelling practice explores the complexities of the human experience in the context of political and social conflict with a deep commitment to social justice and historical truth.

Mary Miss

Mary Miss is recognized for innovative, site-specific public sculpture that integrates landscape design and urban planning. Her installations accentuate a site's ecology and history and often engage with issues of sustainability. She has created numerous public art projects worldwide, including two well-known works in Manhattan: *South Cove*, along the Hudson River in Battery Park, and a permanent installation that excavates the history of the Union Square subway station. To create these boundary-defying works, Miss employs a highly collaborative approach, frequently partnering with engineers, architects, and public administrators.

Lorraine O'Grady

Lorraine O'Grady's rigorous, multidisciplinary practice encompasses installation, performance, video, photomontage, and cultural criticism. O'Grady is best known for her iconic guerilla performances in the early 1980s as Mlle Bourgeoise Noire, a fictional persona whose critique of racial exclusion in the art world remains an enduring provocation. Over four decades, O'Grady's work has underscored the centrality of Black women and their stories and the ways hybridity and diaspora have shaped the history of Western modernism.

Cameron Rowland

Cameron Rowland's art practice explores the intersection of racial capitalism and the law in the United States. Rowland often uses ready-made objects whose past ownership or means of production highlight the ways in which historical systems of oppression continue to shape contemporary society. Their work is deeply research-based, drawing on archival documents and legal records, prompting viewers to consider their own complicity in systems of oppression.

Cauleen Smith

Cauleen Smith makes films, installations, and objects that engage the imaginary possibilities of the work to propose alternate futures. Smith draws on a wide range of sources and strategies for her films, from science fiction and Afrofuturism to alternative religious societies like the Shakers, and her work is informed by structuralist film, Third Cinema, and jazz. Her interdisciplinary practice also includes textile banners, drawings, and staged group actions, or processions, that create community gatherings.

Gwendolyn Knight Lawrence Award

Ouattara Watts

Ouattara Watts's paintings are characterized by a vibrant use of color and intricate patterns that draw on the artist's West African heritage. Watts frequently employs collage and assemblage to bring texture and depth to his pictures whose abstract compositions are dynamic and full of life. Throughout his forty-year career, Watts has explored themes including identity, spirituality, and community using visual motifs that speak meaningfully to the social and cultural issues of our time.

Jacob Lawrence Award

Sandy Rodriguez

Sandy Rodriguez's art practice explores the intersections of identity, migration, and environmental justice with a particular focus on the cultural traditions of Mesoamerica. In her mixed media paintings, prints, and installations, Rodriguez uses visual and narrative complexity to challenge dominant accounts of American history. Drawing on a lexicon of historical cartographic imagery, Rodriguez maps histories of painting and colonialism in works that speak with urgency to our contemporary moment.

Rosenthal Family Foundation Award in Art

Tala Madani

Tala Madani's paintings and drawings frequently feature cartoonish, grotesque figures engaged in absurd or perverse acts. The artist's skillful use of bold colors and stylized forms add to the unsettling effect of her work. Madani offers a provocative and subversive approach to figurative art that pushes the boundaries of traditional representation and invites viewers to reconsider their assumptions about the human body, gender, and sexuality.

Purchase Prize Placements 2022–2023

Through a fund established by Childe Hassam (1859–1935), the American Academy of Arts and Letters purchases works by living American artists and donates them to collecting institutions across the United States. This year, Arts and Letters gave works to seven collections and will select its next purchase prize winners in fall 2023.

Andrea Belag

As the World Turns, 2021
Cleveland Clinic
Cleveland, Ohio

A. K. Burns

Leave No Trace, 2016
Untitled (Eclipse), 2019
Whitney Museum of American Art
New York, New York

Pam Lins

*Snail/Lemon, Actual/
Proportional*, 2021
SCAD Museum of Art
Savannah, South Carolina

Matt Saunders

Raft, 2022
Hirshhorn Museum
and Sculpture Garden
Washington, D. C.

Shinique Smith

*she waited secretly, between
shadow and soul*, 2021
Guggenheim Museum
New York, New York

Martine Syms

Soliloquy, 2021
St. Louis Art Museum
St. Louis, Missouri

Susan Jane Walp

*Blueberries in a Green Basket with
Red-handled Knife*, 2020
Sheldon Art Museum
Lincoln, Nebraska

Awards in Literature

presented by
Amy Hempel, Joy Williams,
and Mona Simpson

Arts and Letters Awards

Jennifer Croft

Jennifer Croft has won wide acclaim for her creative and empathetic translations of Polish and Spanish literature and for her brilliant illustrated memoir, *Homesick*. She has translated the work of Nobel laureate Olga Tokarczuk and has been a leader in the campaign to promote greater appreciation and recognition of translators with a call to publishers to include the names of translators on book covers.

Natalie Diaz

The intensity and surrealistic disturbance of Natalie Diaz's two collections, *When My Brother Was an Aztec* and *Postcolonial Love Poem*, have established her as a major and compelling voice. Her poems possess a strong, hungry, and mournful beauty—each becoming a sacred pyre of grief and praise.

Forrest Gander

Forrest Gander has brought geological and botanical specificity to his twelve books of poetry and two novels along with striking psychological insight and formal invention. His poems are sensuous, smart, edgy, and alert to ethical stress. They keep vigil over pulses of life in lichen, pulses of death in decomposing whales, pulses of light from stars, and pulses of the human heart and brain in the midst of it all.

James Ijames

James Ijames's vivacious spinoff *Fat Ham* transposes *Hamlet* to a backyard barbecue celebrating the marriage of Gertrude and Claudius, creating its own mad magic with lush street poetry powered by issues of domestic violence and gender identity. At the end, Juicy, the queer,

Black, overweight Hamlet, lives, and Laertes comes out of the closet in full drag for a spectacular finale. Is it too much? Forget it. Whatever Ijames wants, the prodigiously gifted Ijames has earned.

Mona Mansour

The first play in Mona Mansour's *The Vagrant Trilogy* explores a Palestinian academic lecturing in London on Wordsworth when the Arab-Israeli War breaks out. Should he return home with his new wife or stay in an academic setting where he's regarded as an exotic? Are we ever of the place we go? Are we still of the place we left? The second and third plays present alternative answers to the haunting question: "Can you escape identity?"

Joshua Prager

Joshua Prager's gift for uncovering secrets is informed here by phenomenal research, a compassionate stance, and masterful presentation. A lauded investigative journalist, Prager creates a full and non-judgmental portrait of Norma McCorvey, known as Jane Roe in *Roe v. Wade*. This definitive account of the central figure in one of the most divisive court rulings in this country is an essential amplification of the legal, political, and personal stakes in this singular and ever more relevant American family story.

Hugh Raffles

Gloriously idiosyncratic and erudite, *Insectopedia* and *The Book of Unconformities* by the anthropologist Hugh Raffles take on everything from the savageries of exploration and extraction to the ghastly behavior of the "real" Pinocchio, to Robert Peary's appropriation in Greenland of the Inughuit people's meteorites (and several Inughuits as well whom he delivered to New York City's Museum of Natural History). Raffles's works are elegant, unpredictable, and engrossing.

Atsuro Riley

Every line is a mouthful in Atsuro Riley's wild and extravagant poems, a terrarium of "perseverating fiddler-crabs pockworking the pluff-mud." In his Baroque profusion, syntax warps and parts of speech change places. But this is no random riot of language: Riley brings into being a particular world, childhood in South Carolina Lowcountry and its "rudimental stories," a land as violent and gorgeous as the idiom he invents for it.

Blake-Dodd Prize

Masha Gessen

Masha Gessen writes unsparingly about war and tyranny, barbarism and injustice. Their work—in the tradition of Hannah Arendt—challenges not just the powerful, but all those who, through indifference or self-protection, remain on the sidelines. Theirs is an essential voice for our time: fierce, courageous, and uncompromising.

Benjamin Hadley Danks Award

Meghan O'Gieblyn

Meghan O'Gieblyn takes on humanity's oldest questions: about faith, despair, and the meaning of life (or its lack thereof). Her writing is at once fiercely intelligent and totally unpretentious, intensely personal and extraordinarily far-ranging. Her essays help us to make sense of our deepest fears and our abiding hopes.

Sue Kaufman Prize for First Fiction

Morgan Talty, *Night of the Living Rez*

The past harbors ghosts but no guides in Morgan Talty's fine collection of linked stories set in a Penobscot tribal reservation in Maine. *Night of the Living Rez* is haunting, uncompromising, and affecting, a powerful contribution to the art of the American short story.

Addison M. Metcalf Award

Imbolo Mbue

Two novels, *Behold the Dreamers* and *How Beautiful We Were*, have established Imbolo Mbue as one of our most talented young novelists. Her engagement with difficult, complicated subjects—the struggles of African immigrants to America; the devastating effects on the lives of African villagers of colonialism and of the rapacious greed of an American oil company—demonstrate this writer’s ample literary gifts and the strength of her moral vision.

Arthur Rense Poetry Prize

Shane McCrae

In his poems, Shane McCrae carves away at experience sternly, relentlessly, leaving gaps, turning the block of memory by degrees so the dimensions keep shifting and new planes are revealed. He sees private, personal history in the shape of the deep past of slavery and captivity, and vice versa: his poems create an austere, devastating, and devastated portrait of the America he addresses so intimately.

Rosenthal Family Foundation Award for Literature

Anna DeForest, *A History of Present Illness*

Raw and eloquent language in taut narrative fragments gives this debut novel of a young doctor’s first year in a city hospital an exceptional power. No stranger to trauma in her own earlier life, the new doctor finds herself carried along by her natural empathy, profound questions, and deeply decent soul. Quotable and memorable, this novel is a series of emotionally charged encounters informed by a physician’s desire to bring compassionate attention to those who need it most.

John Updike Award

Hernan Diaz

Hernan Diaz builds his novels like puzzles, conducting his experiments on the level of structure, redirecting and undermining his narratives, prompting the reader to question the legends of capitalism and so-called great men. Diaz seems to write out of literary history more than lived experience; he uses the myths of the West, along with the dazzling games of Jorge Luis Borges, to create his own heady critique, after Henry James and Edith Wharton, of the American century.

Harold D. Vursell Memorial Award

Lauren Groff

Lauren Groff writes from a deep and dizzying internality. Her sentences sing as she experiments with modes and methods of narrative to render the primal experience of female life. Her stories are fine-grained, indelible, and mythic. A thoroughly original and essential voice in American fiction.

E. B. White Award

Jacqueline Woodson

Jacqueline Woodson fills picture books with poetry—soaring sentences and resonant stories that give listeners the gift of seeing their lives as beautiful, valuable. Her middle grade and young adult novels are replete with dreaming and disappointment, love and love’s hard losses. In her books we recognize the world as it is: complicated, searing, and hopeful. We honor Jacqueline Woodson as one of the most expansively talented and generous writers working today.

Award of Merit Medal for Drama
presented by John Guare

Bruce Norris

For the last twenty years, Bruce Norris has created a body of work unlike any other in the American theater, all the more striking for its jugular vein assaults on race, class, patriotism, our tolerance for brutality, and sexual hypocrisy. His plays are peopled by racists, African dictators, politicians, swingers, and pedophiles, even the victims of whom are not spared. Norris, a dashed idealist, creates a world where ethics is not theoretical but deeply personal. An ace provocateur, Norris reminds one of Houellebecq who said “Invective is one of my pleasures. I attack, I insult. I have a gift for provocation.” His play *Clybourne Park* was the first play to win the Pulitzer, the Tony, and London’s Olivier.

Awards in Music

presented by David Sanford and John Harbison

Arts and Letters Awards

Eve Beglarian

Eve Beglarian’s music covers a wide spectrum of styles and techniques in a spectacular body of work that innovates and takes enormous risks. Much of her work is in large long-term projects, including *A Book of Days*, which will eventually include multimedia pieces for every day of the year; *BRIM: the River Project*, about her own travel by kayak and bicycle down the Mississippi; and *Machaut in the Machine Age*, a set of wonderful refractions on the music of the medieval composer.

David Serkin Ludwig

David Serkin Ludwig, a most distinguished creative musician, has received many awards and honors. NPR Music named him among the world’s “Top 100 Composers Under Forty.” He served on the composition faculty of the Curtis Institute of Music for nearly two decades before being appointed Dean and Director of The Juilliard School music division. His choral work, *The New Colossus*, opened the private prayer service for President Obama’s second inauguration.

Nicole Mitchell

Nicole Mitchell’s work is marked by a fecundity of expression in chamber and orchestral music, as well as in her newly published book, *The Mandorla Letters: for the hopeful*. Perhaps her most important and frequently performed recent works are the *Xenogenesis Suite*, a thrilling set of Afrofuturist meditations on the work of science fiction master Octavia E. Butler for a chamber ensemble of improvisers, and *Cult of Electromagnetic Connectivity*, a haunting work for classical chamber ensemble.

Roscoe Mitchell

Roscoe Mitchell's music exudes ingenuity and originality at every turn. As an improviser, his easily recognizable voice on a seemingly endless array of woodwind instruments transcends conventional notions of instrumental timbre. The hybrid sensibility embedded in his music is on full display in the orchestral work *Distant Radio Transmission* and in his ongoing *Nonaah* series, a fifty-year odyssey of exploration on a single theme in versions ranging from solo saxophone to full orchestra.

Walter Hinrichsen Award

Shih-Hui Chen

With deep research on indigenous and nanguan music in Taiwan, Shih-Hui Chen has composed a series of compositions ranging from string quartets to traditional Chinese instrumental orchestral works, mixed instrumental chamber works with electronics, and full-length multimedia and bilingual story-telling dramas. Her strong personal voice bridges the East and West with passion, energy, and dramatic expression. Her contribution to intercultural exchange is unmistakable.

Andrew Imbrie Award

Robert Honstein

Composer, educator, collaborator Robert Honstein writes profoundly moving music filled with startling color, alternately delicate and dense textures, and intricate interlocking propulsive patterns. He brings his voice to orchestras, chamber music, vocal ensembles, and to film with recent premieres at Carnegie Hall and on Showtime where his score for *The Real Charlie Chaplin* was nominated for a 2022 Emmy. As Program Director in Music Composition at NYU Steinhardt, Robert Honstein has supported hundreds of young composers in developing their work.

Charles Ives Fellowships

Charles Peck

Crafted with meticulous detail, the imaginative and well-heard twists and turns in the music of Charles Peck feel inexorable. Alluring sonic adventures in works such as *Vinyl* and *Rift & Shade* captivate performers and listeners with their dynamic contrasts, bending harmonies, and expressive solo passages. Musical sensitivity and intelligence imbue these compositions, which are bound together by logical formal-designs and cohere into personal dazzling auras.

Peter Shin

Peter Shin has already established an individual voice. His work *Hyo* for chamber orchestra reveals a sophisticated wide range of beautiful orchestral sounds that unfold within a strong narrative. It is honest, clear, heartfelt, original music.

Charles Ives Scholarships

Seare Ahmad Farhat

Ali Can Puskulcu

Jordyn Gallinek

Harriet Steinke

Luke Haaksma

Bethany Younge

Goddard Lieberson Fellowships

Andy Akiho

Composer-percussionist Andy Akiho has created the most original body of work featuring percussion for the 21st century after Reich, Harrison, and Cage defined it for the 20th. His monumental *Seven Pillars* for Sandbox Percussion and the vast agglomeration of concerti, solo, and ensemble works for all things struck from steel pans to ping-pong balls bring the listener on a visceral journey from their highly layered architectural forms to the most intricate and delicate of sound worlds.

Zosha Di Castri

Zosha Di Castri's music unites superb technical skill with daring, wide-ranging imagination. Some of her music mixes electronics seamlessly with exploratory instrumental and vocal writing. Her natural affinity for both the voice and the orchestra come together in the sonically sumptuous and deeply expressive *In the half-light* for soprano and orchestra. Her harmonies are gorgeous, her rhythms vital, and her sound palette endlessly colorful.

Marc Blitzstein Memorial Award

Missy Mazzoli and Royce Vavrek

Missy Mazzoli and Royce Vavrek have, together, and sometimes separately, found the resourcefulness to help move opera into a fresh contact with its public. With good stories, clear words, and telling musical ideas, they have created works of passion and intrigue.

Charles Ives Opera Prize

Laura Elise Schwendinger, composer
Ginger Strand, librettist

With power and searing lyricism, Laura Schwendinger and Ginger Strand's 2019 opera *Artemisia* explores the rich and dynamic life of 17th-century Italian painter Artemisia Gentileschi. The music of this astounding work delights in its rich variety and immediacy and surprises listeners as it explores and transforms itself in new and unexpected directions. While *Artemisia* does not eschew contrapuntal intricacy and a multi-layered handling of text and meaning, it never fails to speak to our emotions and to our humanity.

Richard Rodgers Awards in Musical Theater *presented by Mindi Dickstein*

Staged Reading Awards

Lewis Loves Clark

Music by Dylan MarcAurele; book and lyrics by Mike Ross

Marie in Tomorrow Land

Book and lyrics by Maggie-Kate Coleman; music by Erato A. Kremmyda

The Blashfield Address

Andrey Kurkov
“Rain, Snow, and Ashes”

Highest Awards and Medals

Award for Distinguished Service to the Arts
presented by Henri Cole

Susan Unterberg

Twenty-five years ago, Susan Unterberg created Anonymous Was A Woman, a program conceived to give “no-strings-attached” grants of \$25,000 to women-identifying artists over 40 at significant junctures in their careers. These awards helped painters, photographers, video artists, sculptors, performance artists, and others buy time, space, materials, and equipment. For two decades, Unterberg’s philanthropic role remained invisible while she worked as an artist in her own right. A few years ago, she stepped forward to inspire others to join her in uplifting women who are so often underrepresented and undervalued by the art world. Her elegant response to this inequity has recognized the careers of a long and impressive list of recipients.

Gold Medal for Belles Lettres and Criticism
presented by Gordon Teskey

Helen Hennessy Vendler

Over the course of her brilliant career, Helen Hennessy Vendler has demonstrated, with a combination of conviction and common sense, how one might best read and understand poetry. Her remarkable lucidity in examining the difficult, often-elusive ways by which poems achieve meaning—especially how syntax influences poetic argument—in such diverse poets as Shakespeare, John Keats, Emily Dickinson, and Wallace Stevens, is unparalleled. She is our foremost critic of poetry, and has helped create enthusiasm for the work of some of our greatest contemporary poets.

Gold Medal for Painting
presented by Glenn Ligon

Faith Ringgold

Faith Ringgold is a multidisciplinary artist and activist whose practice spans painting, sculpture, performance, quilts, and children's books. Her distinctive visual approach combines bold figuration with the language of protest, drawing upon both autobiographical and collective histories to amplify struggles for social justice. Her large-scale paintings of the 1960s remain some of the most enduring artworks of the Civil Rights era, capturing the urgency of political and social change with keen insight, while her experimental story quilts of more recent decades are genre-defying works of powerful narrative force.

American Academy of Arts and Letters

The American Academy of Arts and Letters, founded in 1898 and chartered by Congress to “foster, assist, and sustain an interest in literature, music, and the fine arts,” is an honor society of the country’s 300 leading voices in the fields of Architecture, Art, Literature, and Music. Members are elected for life and pay no dues.

Each year, in addition to electing new members as vacancies occur, we exhibit art, fund performances of new works of musical theater, purchase and commission artwork for donation to museums across the country, and present talks, concerts, and performances.

In fulfilling our mission, one of our most important activities has always been the recognition, through annual awards, of outstanding achievement in architecture, visual art, literature, and music composition. The recipients of these awards are chosen by committees composed of our members. In 2023 we have given awards to 60 recipients; the total amount expended for awards and grants was \$1.2 million.

Members of the Academy

Department of Architecture

Deborah Berke	Kenneth Frampton	Richard Meier	Billie Tsien
Marlon Blackwell	Frank Gehry	Toshiko Mori	Michael Van
James Corner	Kathryn Gustafson	Laurie Olin	Valkenburgh
Maurice Cox	Steven Holl	Thomas Phifer	Tod Williams
Elizabeth Diller	Walter Hood	Annabelle Selldorf	Mabel O. Wilson
Peter Eisenman	Michael Maltzan	Robert A. M. Stern	Meejin Yoon
Merrill Elam	Thom Mayne	Nader Tehrani	

Department of Art

Robert Adams	Red Grooms	Julie Mehretu	Arlene Shechet
Laurie Anderson	Ann Hamilton	Catherine Murphy	Cindy Sherman
Lynda Benglis	Mary Heilmann	Bruce Nauman	Amy Sillman
Huma Bhabha	Michael Heizer	Shirin Neshat	Lorna Simpson
Mark Bradford	Jenny Holzer	Judy Pfaff	Kiki Smith
Vija Celmins	Richard Hunt	Adrian Piper	Pat Steir
Mel Chin	Robert Irwin	Martin Puryear	Sarah Sze
Jim Dine	Yvonne Jacquette	Yvonne Rainer	James Turrell
Mark di Suvero	Arthur Jafa	Paul Resika	Richard Tuttle
Lois Dodd	Bill Jensen	Faith Ringgold	Ursula von
Rackstraw Downes	Jasper Johns	Dorothea	Rydingsvard
Carroll Dunham	Joan Jonas	Rockburne	Kara Walker
Nicole Eisenman	Alex Katz	Ed Ruscha	Carrie Mae Weems
Eric Fischl	Glenn Ligon	Betye Saar	Stanley Whitney
Mary Frank	Maya Lin	David Salle	Terry Winters
Suzan Frecon	Robert Mangold	Peter Saul	
Charles Gaines	Sylvia Plimack	Julian Schnabel	
Theaster Gates	Mangold	Richard Serra	
Robert Gober	Brice Marden	Joel Shapiro	

Department of Literature

Renata Adler	John Barth	Robert Brustein	Billy Collins
Sherman Alexie	Ann Beattie	Peter Carey	Robert Coover
Isabel Allende	Louis Begley	Robert A. Caro	Michael
Hilton Als	Wendell Berry	Michael Chabon	Cunningham
Kwame Anthony	Frank Bidart	Ron Chernow	Edwidge Danticat
Appiah	T. Coraghessan	Ta-Nehisi Coates	Lydia Davis
Paul Auster	Boyle	Henri Cole	Don DeLillo

Junot Díaz	Edward Hoagland	Joyce Carol Oates	Jane Smiley
Annie Dillard	John Irving	Tim O'Brien	Anna Deavere
Rita Dove	Ha Jin	Sharon Olds	Smith
Dave Eggers	Diane Johnson	Cynthia Ozick	Tracy K. Smith
Deborah Eisenberg	Edward P. Jones	Suzan-Lori Parks	Gary Snyder
Louise Erdrich	Garrison Keillor	Ann Patchett	Art Spiegelman
Jeffrey Eugenides	William Kennedy	Caryl Phillips	Elizabeth Strout
Percival Everett	Jamaica Kincaid	Jayne Anne Phillips	Amy Tan
Jules Feiffer	Barbara Kingsolver	Robert Pinsky	Paul Theroux
Richard Ford	Maxine Hong	Richard Powers	Natasha Trethewey
Jonathan Franzen	Kingston	Richard Price	Calvin Trillin
Ian Frazier	Elizabeth Kolbert	Francine Prose	Anne Tyler
Mary Gaitskill	Yusef Komunyakaa	Annie Proulx	Helen Hennessy
Henry Louis	Jane Kramer	Claudia Rankine	Vendler
Gates, Jr.	Tony Kushner	David Remnick	Rosanna Warren
Louise Glück	Jhumpa Lahiri	Marilynne	Edmund White
Mary Gordon	Yiyun Li	Robinson	John Edgar
Vivian Gornick	Phillip Lopate	Kay Ryan	Wideman
Jorie Graham	David Mamet	George Saunders	Joy Williams
Stephen Greenblatt	Colum McCann	Stacy Schiff	Terry Tempest
John Guare	Thomas McGuane	Grace Schulman	Williams
Allan Gurganus	John McPhee	David Sedaris	Garry Wills
Joy Harjo	N. Scott Momaday	Lore Segal	Tobias Wolff
Robert Hass	Lorrie Moore	Wallace Shawn	Charles Wright
Terrance Hayes	Paul Muldoon	Leslie Marmon	Kevin Young
Amy Hempel	Lynn Nottage	Silko	
Edward Hirsch	Sigrid Nunez	Mona Simpson	

Department of Music

John Adams	John Harbison	Carman Moore	Christopher
John Luther Adams	Stephen Hartke	Tobias Picker	Theofanidis
Samuel Adler	Jennifer Higdon	David Rakowski	Augusta Read
T. J. Anderson	Stephen Jaffe	Shulamit Ran	Thomas
Robert Beaser	Betsy Jolas	Bernard Rands	Henry Threadgill
William Bolcom	Aaron Jay Kernis	Steve Reich	Joan Tower
Martin Bresnick	David Lang	Roger Reynolds	Chinary Ung
Chen Yi	Paul Lansky	Terry Riley	Melinda Wagner
John Corigliano	Tania León	David Sanford	Julia Wolfe
Sebastian Currier	Fred Lerdahl	Maria Schneider	Yehudi Wyner
Anthony Davis	George E. Lewis	Joseph Schwantner	Pamela Z
David Del Tredici	Annea Lockwood	Roberto Sierra	Ellen Taaffe Zwilich
Philip Glass	Wynton Marsalis	Alvin Singleton	
Adolphus Hailstork	Meredith Monk	Wadada Leo Smith	

American Honorary Members

Woody Allen	Bill T. Jones	Joni Mitchell	Michael Tilson
Mikhail	Spike Lee	Leontyne Price	Thomas
Baryshnikov	Robert Levin	Martin	Alice Waters
Francis Ford	Yo-Yo Ma	Scorsese	Robert Wilson
Coppola	Frances	Meryl Streep	Frederick Wiseman
Bob Dylan	McDormand	Twyla Tharp	

Foreign Honorary Members

Thomas Adès	Rachel Cusk	Milan Kundera	Gerhard Richter
Chimamanda	Anita Desai	Andrey Kurkov	Bridget Riley
Ngozi Adichie	Margaret Drabble	György Kurtág	Salman Rushdie
David Adjaye	Norman Foster	Yayoi Kusama	Kaija Saariaho
El Anatsui	Athol Fugard	Magnus Lindberg	Doris Salcedo
Tadao Ando	Damon Galgut	Antonio López	Sebastião Salgado
Margaret Atwood	Alexander Goehr	Garcia	Kazuyo Sejima
John Banville	Sofia Gubaidulina	Fumihiko Maki	Alvaro Siza
Julian Barnes	Andreas Gursky	Ian McEwan	Zadie Smith
Bei Dao	David Hockney	Rafael Moneo	Wole Soyinka
Leo Brouwer	Kazuo Ishiguro	Alice Munro	Tom Stoppard
Ian Buruma	Toyo Ito	Haruki Murakami	Thomas Struth
Anne Carson	Elfriede Jelinek	Glenn Murcutt	Colm Tóibín
Unsuik Chin	Anish Kapoor	Edna O'Brien	Luc Tuymans
Caryl Churchill	William Kentridge	Sheila O'Donnell	Mario Vargas Llosa
Francesco	Anselm Kiefer	Michael Ondaatje	Cecilia Vicuña
Clemente	Jo Kondo	Orhan Pamuk	Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o
J. M. Coetzee	Rem Koolhaas	Arvo Pärt	

Board of Directors

President

Kwame Anthony Appiah 2022–2025

Vice-Presidents for Architecture

Annabelle Selldorf 2020–2024

Billie Tsien 2022–2025

Vice-Presidents for Art

Mel Chin 2022–2025

Joan Jonas 2022–2025

Amy Sillman 2022–2024

Vice-Presidents for Literature

Hilton Als 2022–2025

Rita Dove 2023–2026

Francine Prose 2023–2026

Vice-Presidents for Music

Alvin Singleton 2022–2025

Augusta Read Thomas 2020–2024

Treasurer

Edward Hirsch 2022–2024

Secretary

Ann Hamilton 2022–2025

Executive Director

Cody Upton

American Academy of Arts and Letters
633 West 155 Street, New York, NY 10032
(212) 368-5900 academy@artsandletters.org
artsandletters.org

American Academy of Arts and Letters
633 West 155 Street New York, NY 10032