

# AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND LETTERS



## CEREMONIAL

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MAY 19, 2021

2020 AND 2021 NEW MEMBERS AND  
RECIPIENTS OF AWARDS

<https://artsandletters.org/2021ceremonial/>

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## A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Academy's Ceremonial film and this accompanying program are a record of the extraordinary architects, artists, writers, and composers the Academy has recognized in 2020 and in 2021.

This past year has caused us all to evaluate our priorities and spurred us to reimagine who we might be as we move into the future. We are ever more committed to the support of creative work and now understand the profound need we all have to connect to our deepest selves through the power of the arts.

Forward!

BILLIE TSIEN



# CEREMONIAL PROGRAM

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## NEWLY ELECTED HONORARY MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMY 10

*American Honorary Members:* Mikhail Baryshnikov, Spike Lee

*Foreign Honorary Members:* Unsuk Chin, Balkrishna Doshi

## NEWLY ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMY 12

*Department of Architecture:* Marlon Blackwell, James Corner,  
Kathryn Gustafson, Walter Hood, Toshiko Mori, Nader  
Tehrani, Meejin Yoon

*Department of Art:* Laurie Anderson, Mark Bradford, Mel Chin,  
Carroll Dunham, Theaster Gates, Michael Heizer, Glenn  
Ligon, Adrian Piper, Faith Ringgold, Betye Saar, Julian  
Schnabel, Amy Sillman, Lorna Simpson, Carrie Mae Weems

*Department of Literature:* Hilton Als, Ta-Nehisi Coates, Edwidge  
Danticat, Mary Gaitskill, Joy Harjo, Barbara Kingsolver,  
Elizabeth Kolbert, Barry Lopez, Sigrid Nunez, Caryl  
Phillips, Leslie Marmon Silko, Mona Simpson, Tracy K.  
Smith, Colson Whitehead, Kevin Young

*Department of Music:* Anthony Davis, Wynton Marsalis, Terry  
Riley, Roberto Sierra, Henry Threadgill, Chinary Ung

## AWARDS IN ARCHITECTURE 23

*Arts and Letters Awards:* Bade Stageberg Cox, Julie Eizenberg  
and Hank Koning, Ersela Kripa and Stephen Mueller,  
Kevin Lippert, Justin Garrett Moore, John Ochsendorf,  
Dwayne Oyler and Jenny Wu, Jonathan Tate

*Arthur W. Brunner Memorial Prize:* Marina Tabassum,  
Nader Tehrani

*Arts and Letters Awards:* Diana Al-Hadid, Amy Bennett, Suzanne Bocanegra, Lisa Corinne Davis, Coco Fusco, Elliott Green, Sheila Hicks, Suzanne Joelson, Thaddeus Mosley, Karyn Olivier, Aki Sasamoto, Ming Smith, Elizabeth Tubergen, Marie Watt, Dyani White Hawk, Carmen Winant

*John Koch Award:* Jennifer Coates, Jennifer Packer

*Gwendolyn Knight Lawrence Awards:* Nicholas Galanin, Jaune Quick-to-See Smith, Jessica Stockholder

*Jacob Lawrence Awards:* Lauren Halsey, Reggie Burrows Hodges, David Huffman

*Willard L. Metcalf Award:* Ibrahim Said

*Rosenthal Family Foundation Award:* Jerrell Gibbs, Ridley Howard

*Art Purchases:* Laylah Ali, Amy Bennett, A. K. Burns, Peter Charlap, Mike Cloud, Trenton Doyle Hancock, Barbara Ess, R. M. Fischer, Erik Foss, Chie Fueki, Maren Hassinger, EJ Hauser, Leslie Hewitt, Lonnie Holley, Ridley Howard, Katherine Hubbard, Adam Hurwitz, Yun-fei Ji, Cheyenne Julien, Forrest Kirk, Savannah Knoop, Siobhan Liddell, Medrie MacPhee, Aspen Mays, Karyn Olivier, Rona Pondick, Nathalie Provosty, Erin Riley, Dread Scott, Roger Shimomura, Elena Sisto, Lava Thomas, Simon Tosky, William Villalongo, Susan Jane Walp, Peter Williams, Brian Wood

*Award of Merit Medal for Sculpture:* Jessica Jackson Hutchins

*Award for Distinguished Service to the Arts:* Phong Bui

- Arts and Letters Awards:* Marie Arana, Katori Hall, Saskia Hamilton, Joel Harrington, Jeremy O. Harris, Wayne Koestenbaum, Yiyun Li, Sandra Lim, Layli Long Soldier, Megan McDowell, Maaza Mengiste, Viet Thanh Nguyen, Jana Prikryl, Adam Rapp, Kathryn Scanlan, Benjamin Taylor
- Blake-Dodd Prize:* Janine di Giovanni
- Benjamin Hadley Danks Award:* Hanya Yanagihara
- E. M. Forster Award:* Stephen Sexton
- Sue Kaufman Prize for First Fiction:* Isabella Hammad, Douglas Stuart
- Addison M. Metcalf Award:* Kali Fajardo-Anstine
- Katherine Anne Porter Award:* Christine Schutt
- Arthur Rense Poetry Prize:* Mary Ruefle
- Rosenthal Family Foundation Award:* Valeria Luiselli, C Pam Zhang
- Harold D. Vursell Memorial Award:* Garth Greenwell, Alex Kotlowitz
- Thornton Wilder Prize for Translation:* Linda Asher
- John Updike Awards:* Stephen Adly Guirgis, Diane Seuss
- E. B. White Award:* Kate DiCamillo
- Morton Dauwen Zabel Award:* Brenda Hillman
- Award of Merit Medal for the Novel:* Chang-rae Lee
- Mildred and Harold Strauss Livings:* Salvatore Scibona, Laura van den Berg
- Christopher Lightfoot Walker Award:* Leslie Marmon Silko
- William Dean Howells Medal:* Richard Powers
- Award for Distinguished Service to the Arts:* Bill Henderson

## AWARDS IN MUSIC

47

*Arts and Letters Awards:* Gabriela Frank, Annie Gosfield, Ted Hearne, Amy Beth Kirsten, Alexandre Lunsqui, Andreia Pinto Correia, David Sanford, Trevor Weston

*Benjamin Hadley Danks Award:* Yotam Haber

*Walter Hinrichsen Award:* Shawn E. Okpebholo, Pamela Z

*Andrew Imbrie Award:* David Hertzberg, Juri Seo

*Charles Ives Fellowships:* Timo Andres, Gabriel Kahane, Narong Prangcharoen, Matthew Ricketts

*Charles Ives Scholarships:*

2020: Jack Hughes, Aaron Israel Levin, Huijuan Ling, Nate May, David Clay Mettens, Jason Mulligan

2021: William Dougherty, Alexis Lamb, Ehud Perlman, Frances Pollock, Joel Thompson, Shelley Washington

*Wladimir and Rhoda Lakond Award:* Wang Lu

*Goddard Lieberston Fellowships:* Jeremy Gill, Lei Liang, Adam Schoenberg, Tyshawn Sorey

*Virgil Thomson Award in Vocal Music:* James Primosch

## AWARDS IN MUSICAL THEATER

54

*Richard Rodgers Awards in Musical Theater:* Grace McLean; Jay Adana and Zeniba Now; Chelsea Marcantel, Michael Mahler, and Alan Schmuckler; Heather Christian; EllaRose Chary and Brandon James Gwinn

<b>GOLD MEDALS</b>	<b>55</b>
<i>The Gold Medal for Architecture: Peter Eisenman</i>	
<i>The Gold Medal for History: David W. Blight</i>	
<i>The Gold Medal for Music: Yehudi Wyner</i>	
<i>The Gold Medal for Poetry: Rita Dove</i>	
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# NEWLY ELECTED AMERICAN HONORARY MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMY

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*Mikhail Baryshnikov*

2021

Mikhail Baryshnikov is one of the great ballet dancers in recent history. Though he became one of the world's best classicists, he also embraced American modernism, and with his pristine classical form attracted many newcomers to ballet. On his passport, Baryshnikov calls himself an actor. He is also the founder of the Baryshnikov Arts Center, a creative space for multidisciplinary artists, and the former director of the White Oak Dance Project, which he and Mark Morris co-founded "to expand the repertoire and visibility of American Modern Dance." His name is synonymous with dance, and his life of hard work has given us something vital.

*Spike Lee*

2021

The director, producer, and screenwriter Spike Lee is a revolutionary artist at the forefront of contemporary film. His work, which spans from 1989's *Do The Right Thing* to 1992's extraordinary *Malcolm X* to 2018's *BlacKkKlansman*, grapples fiercely with the triumphs and tragedies of American history. Lee's more than thirty films confirm his status as an auteur and artist of the greatest creative power and energy.

# NEWLY ELECTED FOREIGN HONORARY MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMY

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*Unsuik Chin*

2021

Born in Seoul, South Korea, Unsuik Chin has lived in Berlin since 1988. Her music, which has been commissioned and played by the world's leading orchestras and conductors, has been described as modern in language while lyrical and non-doctrinaire in its communicative power. Imaginative, colorful, nuanced, and flexible, her music is like flickering lights that accumulate into a spinning pinwheel which then spawns sonority and beauty.

*Balkrishna Doshi*

2021

Balkrishna Doshi is an inspiring and generous human being and architect. He began his architecture studies in 1947, the year of India's independence, and went on to work closely with Le Corbusier and Louis Kahn. In 1956 he founded his own practice, Vāstu Shilpā, where he developed a distinctive Indian modernism that combined indigenous design with contemporary planning standards. He also founded and then led the School of Architecture and Planning in Ahmedabad, since renamed CEPT University. His work and vision have shaped several generations of architects.

# NEWLY ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMY

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## DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE

*Marlon Blackwell*

2021

Marlon Blackwell has developed a deeply felt body of work in the heart of America together with a dedication to the school of architecture that he designed and realized in Fayetteville, Arkansas. Believing in the power of teaching and practicing, he is an important role model for students of architecture everywhere.

*James Corner*

2021

James Corner's large-scale interventions in the United States and China have defined modern landscape urbanism. Often rescuing discarded spaces with a visionary's alchemy, he has helped transform the High Line from a ruin to a destination and is building a flowering garden from a landfill at Freshkills Park. He is also the author of a number of seminal works on landscape design and practice. His work reminds us how to find and amplify beauty in the built environment.

*Kathryn Gustafson*

2021

Kathryn Gustafson is an internationally known landscape architect whose work is esteemed for its sculptural, sensual, and deeply rewarding aesthetic qualities. An American who has produced stunning and meaningful landscapes in Europe as well as across the United States, her remarkable use of plants and stone, of topography and water is outstanding, distinguishing her as one of the finest artists working in the medium of landscape today.

*Walter Hood*

2021

The gifted landscape architect Walter Hood has created rich parks and environments that are as poetic as they are supportive of human needs. Beginning with early projects in Oakland that developed from his deep social understanding of the community, and ranging through diverse locales such as a park in an abandoned quarry on the Snake River and a cultural and ecological arboretum at Yerba Buena, to his remarkable recent landscape for the International African American Museum in Charleston, Hood has inspired a generation of students to see landscape architecture as a medium that can rise above instrumentality to one of the great arts.

*Toshiko Mori*

2020

Toshiko Mori is an architect who realizes magnificent buildings. Her cultural center in Senegal is amazing in its deep and poetic connection to place in light and material. Her work focuses on issues of meaning, sustainability, and beauty—simply put: on making a better world. She stands as an inspiration for all young practitioners.

*Nader Tehrani*

2021

Nader Tehrani's architecture is intense, fierce, and spectacular. He confronts the complexities of contemporary society and resolves them with poetic beauty. He innovates with new forms and expressions, consistently challenging the status quo. With every given opportunity, he problematizes and radicalizes pedagogy and practice, spurring new frameworks of inquiry into the discipline of architecture. He is a magnificent pedagogue and one of the most important architects of our time.

*Meejin Yoon*

2021

Meejin Yoon is one of a number of remarkable women changing architecture today. Teacher, architect, and designer, Yoon challenges boundaries that define and too often separate disciplines. Working with Eric Höweler, the two have completed several extraordinary projects that are technically and artistically exacting, signaling new frontiers for the arts.

## DEPARTMENT OF ART

*Laurie Anderson*

2020

Laurie Anderson soothes and unsettles our hearts while feeding our sense of wonder and belonging. She is a visual artist, composer, performer, filmmaker, musician, inventor, and shapeshifter. Regardless of her medium, she fiercely questions what it means to be American, why it is we humans are on this earth, and where we are going once we leave it.

*Mark Bradford*

2021

Mark Bradford is a towering figure best known for his multimedia abstract paintings that use a broad range of materials and processes to experiment with thickly layered surfaces. What results are paintings that present excavations into emotional and political terrain. In his work representing the United States at the Venice Biennale in 2017 and beyond, he contends with the atrocities and struggles of race and poverty.

*Mel Chin*

2021

Mel Chin makes art that is both analytical and poetic, avoiding easy classification. He uses sources as varied as destroyed homes, toxic landfills, and popular television to investigate the different ways that art can provoke greater social awareness. By thinking deeply about others and their states of being, Chin makes wide-ranging works that are stunningly personal, smart, challenging, and generous.

*Carroll Dunham*

2020

Carroll Dunham has been making some of the most arresting paintings based on figurative subjects seen anywhere in the world. In a style that unites Pop, Surrealism, and Expressionism, Dunham crafts canvases that are equal parts brutal and beautiful.

*Theaster Gates*

2021

Theaster Gates, who was trained as a ceramicist, continues to refer to himself as a potter, as being so allows him “to shape the world.” Many artists have spoken of transforming the world through art, but Theaster Gates has found a way to use the contributions of the various communities of which he is a part—his neighborhood in the South Side of Chicago and the wider art world—to truly and profoundly mold our world into something better.

*Michael Heizer*

2021

As an artist whose basic premises emerged over 50 years ago, Michael Heizer has produced a lifetime of work that confronts the overall history of traditional art. Geology, by its nature has never before been utilized, other than by its own beauty, to itself make art. Heizer, however, has found a way to enlist and engage the earth and its processes, and in so doing has made one of the most meaningful contributions to the history of art.

*Glenn Ligon*

2021

In his paintings, prints, and drawings, and his works in glowing neon, Glenn Ligon uses the written word to explore history, contemporary culture, and his own racial identity. He is an astute social observer and a creator of deeply literate visual work. For over thirty years, Ligon’s art has delivered his message like a one-two punch of visual richness and sharp political insight.

*Adrian Piper*

2021

Adrian Piper is an enormously influential artist and analytic philosopher who helped invent and then stretch the boundaries and possibilities of conceptual art. From her early LSD paintings and drawings, to her *Mythic Being* project and *Calling Card* performances, to her video and installation projects challenging social engagement and self-transcendence, Piper is an unparalleled force in invention, aesthetics, and metaethics. She tenaciously works to challenge our assumptions and biases of ourselves, our institutions, and our social structures.

*Faith Ringgold*

2021

Faith Ringgold has produced iconic images across many mediums. We feel the simmer and shimmer of *Tar Beach* and the power of women depicted as warriors. Within the traditional art of quilting, Ringgold wields the needle as an avenging scalpel to cut open our hearts to receive the darkness of injustice and the joy of resistance.

*Betye Saar*

2021

Betye Saar is one of the preeminent artists working today. Hewn in the aesthetic and political tumult of the Black Arts movement of the 1960s and '70s, her assemblages and sculptures riff on the surrealism of Joseph Cornell while skewering racism in American art and politics. Saar is a scholar, artist, and activist of the highest order.

*Julian Schnabel*

2020

Julian Schnabel is a complicated, multi-talented artist of operatic ambition and exuberance with a highly developed sense of style across various media. His films may be viewed as an unfolding and exploration of the same subject matter as his paintings. Both investigate commitment and pain, and occasional triumph. He takes enormous risks in his work and has an uncanny ability to tap into the ethos of the moment and to amplify the potential for change.

*Amy Sillman*

2020

Walking a tightrope between figurative painting and abstraction, Amy Sillman's work is devastatingly beautiful and at times tragically comic. She is a colorist whose playful spirit and dark humor have been applauded for reinvigorating Abstract Expressionism. In addition, she makes zines and iPad animations and writes keenly perceptive essays on the processes of making art and on the artists who have influenced her.

*Lorna Simpson*

2021

Lorna Simpson and her conceptual, language-based photo works broaden the lexicon of art and how we see form and read bodies. With language and large-scale posed photography she examines racial and sexual politics and body policing with a cool dispassion. She has continued to transform her work over the years, expanding into film, paint, and collage. Simpson links history, memory, and the subconscious in ways that are as fascinating as they are influential.

*Carrie Mae Weems*

2020

Carrie Mae Weems is a towering figure in contemporary photography. She captures life as lived on a domestic scale in the *Kitchen Table Series* and life as lived on an heroic scale in her *Roaming*, *Museum*, and *Beacon* series. In her images and video work she is always examining a human being's position in relation to power, specifically from the viewpoint of an African-American woman. She is a force.

DEPARTMENT OF LITERATURE

*Hilton Als*

2021

Although Hilton Als may be best known as a prize-winning theater critic, his work ranges far beyond the stage. Visual art, popular culture, film, fashion, dance, poetry, and forthright memoir—Hilton Als in his writing reaches and embraces it all with passionate eyes, sharp critical judgement, and an original voice. His reviews, essays, and the exhibitions he organizes are essential contributions to the ongoing effort to understand ourselves as a culture and a nation.

*Ta-Nehisi Coates*

2021

Ta-Nehisi Coates is an unfailingly insightful commentator on an America that too often resembles a caricature of itself. His memoir, *Between the World and Me*, was described by Toni Morrison as “required reading.” Coates brings a novelist's eye to sweeten his reportage while his literary fiction is all the more powerful for being grounded in bitter truths.

*Edwidge Danticat*

2020

Edwidge Danticat's deep body of work honors the tangled heartbreak of history and memory. As a novelist, a memoirist, a poet, and an anthologist, she has broadened the boundaries of American experience while bringing a light to the landscape of her Haitian homeland. With grace, wit, and warmth, she continues to bring us a nuanced meditation on the meaning of home.

*Mary Gaitskill*

2020

Mary Gaitskill's stories and novels explore the hidden chambers of the heart. She can be both gritty and elegant while revealing the appetites and vanities that rarely lead to happy outcomes. Her tales are soulful and tender, graphic and surreal, incisive and startling. They embody an unusual mixture of vulnerability and aggression with flashes of astonishing beauty. It is as if our animal existence were not so far from our human existence, and Gaitskill were searching for something in us beyond language.

*Joy Harjo*

2021

Joy Harjo's impressive body of work reveals a humanistic vision. Her allegiance to ancestral history and love of the land are driven by prayer and blues as she excavates names and dreams and confronts a dark lode of American history while always celebrating the spirit that pulses through all living beings. The poet pulls us into the natural agency of being an alert witness when she says, "I feel strongly that I have a responsibility to all the sources that I am... to all voices, all women, all of my tribe, all people, all earth, and beyond that to all beginnings and endings...."

*Barbara Kingsolver*

2021

Barbara Kingsolver's fiction, in stories that are both profound and steeped in pleasure, explores the reciprocity between private psychology and public survival. She is an activist in the most richly artistic sense, one who knows that action is the necessary end of hope, knowledge, and love. Her work in all genres reveals the shared root of *oikos*—housekeeping—behind economics and ecology. To read Kingsolver is to recall, in the most primal and visceral ways, that life must succeed altogether or not at all.

*Elizabeth Kolbert*

2021

Through intense research that often involves challenging journeys, extensive personal interviews, and insightful observations, Elizabeth Kolbert has produced some of the most in-depth, intelligent writing on the current environmental crisis. With great care and attention to detail, she illuminates human folly, as she methodically warns us of the catastrophic results of our daily habits. She is one of the most important nonfiction writers of our time.

*Barry Lopez\**

2020

Barry Lopez is a writer of immense gravity, grace, and eloquence. He has created a literary bridge between nature and culture where the inner and outer landscapes converge through story. His imagination is wide and deep. His pen steers us toward an ethical stance toward life. He takes us beyond a static horizon to a shimmering one that circles the Earth and brings us back home. Whether his books are grounded in the Arctic or his home ground of Finn Rock, Oregon, his words not only allow us to see the world differently, but to feel it more acutely in the name of community, both human and wild.

*Sigrid Nunez*

2021

Sigrid Nunez has achieved distinction in a variety of forms. Her eight novels fearlessly explore the important subjects: family, sexuality, loyalty, grief, identity, duty. Her imaginative affinity with animals can be seen in her award-winning novel *The Friend*, and in *Mitz*, which recounts the life of Leonard and Virginia Woolf's pet marmoset. Her memoir about Susan Sontag, *Sempre Susan*, achieves an admirable balance, neither sycophantic nor mean-spirited. In whatever form she chooses, her prose maintains its elegance, richness, and lucidity.

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\* Barry Lopez passed away on December 25, 2020.

*Caryl Phillips*

2021

Caryl Phillips is among the most outstanding chroniclers of the experience of the African diaspora. His range is great: in his fiction he has worked with a variety of forms, including the epistolary and the liturgical; in his plays he luxuriates in the linguistic richness and varieties that the African tradition has made possible. His work is an admirable combination of hard-hitting and lyrical, blending the personal and the political with a clear-eyed vision and pellucid prose.

*Leslie Marmon Silko*

2021

Leslie Marmon Silko has written several extraordinary books including the classic *Ceremony* and the fiercely monumental *Almanac of the Dead* about the long history of the deracination of North America's lands and native people. Her uncompromising work and original voice always seeks to instruct and heal.

*Mona Simpson*

2020

Mona Simpson is an award-winning story writer and a novelist of distinction. She writes of American materialism and social class, of secrets and of madness, all with a keen eye and a fiery intelligence. Half Syrian, she has sometimes made immigrant communities her supple narrative setting, as in the novel *My Hollywood*. While her books may feel close to her astonishing life, the work never repeats itself. There is hardly a more interesting writer in her generation.

*Tracy K. Smith*

2021

Tracy K. Smith is one of the brightest stars in the poetry firmament. In her award-winning collections of poems and a brilliant memoir, she has a range of themes—from astronomy to history to personal experience—that is equaled only by her precision of language and her invention of imagery. She is a national treasure.

*Colson Whitehead*

2020

Colson Whitehead introduced himself as a writer of fierce intelligence and fearless imagination, two qualities that have continued to define a career

that has encompassed John Henry, the game of poker, summers in Sag Harbor, zombies, a slave narrative, and two young boys caught in a savage reform school. He is rightfully regarded as one of the finest writers in American fiction today.

*Kevin Young*

2021

Kevin Young's poetry gleams with elegance while capturing the rhythms of urgent contemporary speech. In award-winning books he brings us an entirely new music, huge-toned and nuanced, in poems that come alive with a range of topics including paintings, film, jazz, and American history. His poetry is marked by a combination of wit and weight that is as increasingly welcome as it is increasingly rare.

## DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

*Anthony Davis*

2021

Anthony Davis is one of the most exploratory musicians of his generation. His large corpus of operas, chamber music, orchestral works, and works for vocal ensemble comprise a unique combination of political engagement with hybrid approaches to orchestral and operatic media. One of America's greatest living composers of opera, Davis's *X*, *The Life and Times of Malcolm X*; *Amistad*; and *Wakonda's Dream* exemplify the transformation of the medium of opera to embrace the richness of Blackness and the intercultural, while his Pulitzer Prize-winning *The Central Park Five* combines aesthetic brilliance with social justice. Anthony Davis has engaged a panoply of styles and methodologies, from opera to chamber music, from jazz to pop—but ultimately, his work lies beyond genre and category.

*Wynton Marsalis*

2021

Wynton Marsalis brings a vast knowledge and experience of American music to his compositions, integrating the beats and practices of New Orleans, the driving rhythms of post-bop and Afro-Latin music, and beyond, to fashion original, individual creations. In vividly inventive orchestral and large ensemble works, he builds on the traditions of great predecessors and points forward to a luminous practice for twenty-first-century music.

*Terry Riley*

2020

Terry Riley has been at the center of much music for years, especially as one of the original Minimalist composers. His work has been performed, often by himself, throughout the world. He is well-remembered for *In C* and *A Rainbow in the Curved Air*, as well as many collaborations with the Kronos Quartet. He has also been a lifelong supporter of the music of Bharat, India.

*Roberto Sierra*

2021

Roberto Sierra draws on the intellectual traditions of high modernism and the vernacular music of his native Puerto Rico to fashion challenging, fluent, and impeccably wrought scores. Widely performed, Sierra composes with fecundity, reshaping external influences into his own original language to produce visceral, distinctive music.

*Henry Threadgill*

2021

Henry Threadgill's music consistently presents novel and striking approaches to his major medium: works for chamber-sized ensembles under his own direction. The unmistakably personal sound of his music emerges from an audacious harmonic system and his assemblages of instruments of the most heterogeneous capabilities and provenance. His intricate, unpredictable, and often ludic juxtapositions of notated forms with improvised structures is exemplified by his Pulitzer Prize-winning hybrid chamber work, *In for a Penny, In for a Pound*, which enacts a cosmopolitan vision that brings together in performance diverse musical personalities and aesthetics that consistently militate against received limitations of genre.

*Chinary Ung*

2020

Chinary Ung has created a rarefied body of music for the past 45 years that melds modernism with Cambodian folk inflections to build personal narratives that grab the listener from the very first sounds. His orchestral work *Inner Voices* is a masterful hallucination of memory and loss. His multi-work *Spiral* series brings performer intoning and whistling, melismatic string lines, and agitated cries into haunting landscapes of bittersweet hope.

# AWARDS IN ARCHITECTURE

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## ARTS AND LETTERS AWARDS

*Bade Stageberg Cox*

2020

Bade Stageberg Cox is that rare practice that strives for the ideals of architecture at the intersection of multiple art forms. They are dedicated to exploring the haptic realm of material and detail. The creative investigation of light and space is evident in their built work, which speaks strongly to the joy of the experience of architecture. A deep understanding of artists and art raises their work to the “Art of Architecture” category.

*Julie Eizenberg and Hank Koning*

2021

For 40 years architects Julie Eizenberg and Hank Koning, partners in life and work, have created a body of work that has inspired generations of young architects. Located primarily in California, their architecture embodies the spirit of the place. It is fresh, sustainable, economical, and sensitive to site and community. This is work that is widely admired by those who seek a world of balance and beauty.

*Ersela Kripa and Stephen Mueller*

2021

Situated in El Paso on the border of Mexico and the U.S., Ersela Kripa and Stephen Mueller use their collaborative practice AGENCY as a scalpel to peel away the benign and banal, revealing the insidious power of military/industrial might. Using their ability to communicate through images, words, installation, and teaching, they are digital warriors and humanists.

*Kevin Lippert*

2020

Educated as an architect at Princeton University, Kevin Lippert founded Princeton Architectural Press in 1981. It is a small press publisher with over 1,000 titles specializing in architecture, design, landscape, and visual culture. Lippert has been a visionary leader publishing major works on Luis Barragán, Le Corbusier, and Frank Lloyd Wright as well those by contemporary archi-

fects Tom Kundig and Rural Studio. Lippert’s dedication, vision, and perseverance have elevated him to the level of those great publishers whose work is a gift to all future generations interested in learning about architecture.

*Justin Garrett Moore*

2021

Justin Garrett Moore is a skillful and strategic urban designer and advocate for the public realm whose transdisciplinary knowledge allows him to realize complex collaborative public projects. His work connects the urban fabric to natural resources, embedding equity, inclusion, resiliency, and sustainability into our public infrastructures at multiple scales. By listening to people’s stories and connecting to communities, Moore amplifies marginalized voices to bring about new resources that ensure social and spatial justice.

*John Ochsendorf*

2020

John Ochsendorf is a structural engineer, historian, and educator. From rope weaving for suspension bridges in the Incan Empire to the flying buttresses and vaulted arches of European cathedrals, his study of ancient technologies for use in contemporary construction has demonstrated the power of the past to not only inform the present but also to lead us into the future. These sustainable practices have a timeless beauty and are ever more relevant in the face of climate change.

*Dwayne Oyler and Jenny Wu*

2021

The work of Dwayne Oyler and Jenny Wu is provocatively original in its exploration of technique and material. The Oyler Wu Collaborative takes the dynamic nature of a language of lives (explored poetically by the late Lebbeus Woods) to new dimensions and material realizations. The spatial energy of their architectural experimentation is executed with a delicacy and complexity that radiates a labor of love.

*Jonathan Tate*

2020

With a deft hand and seemingly simple gestures, Jonathan Tate’s designs for multi-unit housing are a refreshing and economical take on the traditional and minimal. His projects in New Orleans are an important message for all architects and clients who have high hopes and modest means.

ARNOLD W. BRUNNER MEMORIAL PRIZE IN  
ARCHITECTURE

*Marina Tabassum*

2021

Marina Tabassum is an exceptionally talented architect whose prolific creativity is an integral part of the Bangladeshi modern tradition. The 1997 Museum of Independence in Dhaka, which she designed with Kashef Chowdhury, is a masterfully realized work. Her own Bait Ur Rouf Mosque of 2012, built of brick and brilliantly lit from above, may be seen as a profound extension of the legacy of Louis Kahn. Tabassum's work achieves global significance while remaining rooted in specific human and geographic contexts.

*Nader Tehrani*

2020

Nader Tehrani is an architect and dean of The Cooper Union's School of Architecture. As an architect, his work is rich with aesthetic and dynamic spatial qualities; as an educator, he communicates his passion for and dedication to architecture to his students in innovative ways. His pedagogy and design philosophy are doubly inspiring in this difficult time.

# AWARDS IN ART

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## ARTS AND LETTERS AWARDS

*Diana Al-Hadid*

2020

Diana Al-Hadid's sculpture cascades and spills. *Unstable Solids* and *Delirious Matter*, titles of recent work, aptly describe the effect. Using a painterly technique, she translates liquid into solid. These Jenga-like structures defy gravity and are immersed in personal and historical narratives, architecture, and ghosts of the past. She brings considerable passion and complexity to her sculpture and manages images of time and space with an uncommon virtuosity.

*Amy Bennett*

2020

Amy Bennett creates imaginary worlds that almost resemble our own. By using styrofoam and little pieces of wood, she carves, glues together, and paints tiny scaled models of houses, cars, and people in quite the same way that a model-train enthusiast would. She then paints a picture of her painstaking creation, resulting in starkly beautiful scenes that remind us of the fragility and strangeness of our own daily surroundings.

*Suzanne Bocanegra*

2021

Suzanne Bocanegra weaves narratives across distinct media and disciplines in genre-defying works. Drawing upon vernacular histories, costume, fashion, and the theatrics of religion, she stages performances and performative lectures in nonlinear stories whose humor employs the tools of theater and visual art to examine cultural conventions. Armed with text and textile, Bocanegra throws her voice in ventriloquisms pulled from ghostly threads of research.

*Lisa Corinne Davis*

2021

Lisa Corrine Davis diagrams a painted space where the map *is* the territory. The abstract space her pictures describe is one of both complexity and connection: an evolving, enigmatic narrative of rhythms, systems, and psychological states.

*Coco Fusco*

2021

A transdisciplinary artist of enormous breadth, Coco Fusco confronts systems of thinking that establish accepted power structures and cultural histories with a focus on Latin America and Cuba. In performance, video, critical essays, interviews, and curatorial projects, Fusco keenly examines and destabilizes the enclosures that regulate, divide, and exploit people. In exposing the entanglements of history and the social consequences of colonial power, racism, and gender and class discrimination, Fusco's work elucidates a nuanced perspective.

*Elliott Green*

2020

Elliott Green's ambition has always been defined by intelligence. His euphoric paintings are all light and space one moment and paint and canvas the next. The fascinating conversation between abstraction and landscape is a mystery that the viewer can't unravel. The paintings evoke the heroic by attempting the impossible. Belief and doubt duke it out, and our disappointment is replaced by exultation.

*Sheila Hicks*

2020

Through work spanning forty years, Sheila Hicks uses textiles to revisit childhood memories and investigate the natural world. In her weavings she takes the given structure of the grid as an opportunity for deviation and breath. A master of pliable materials, Hicks has shown us the enduring force of softness in sculpture. Few contemporary artists have done more to advance the medium of textiles in art.

*Suzanne Joelson*

2021

Suzanne Joelson's recent paintings use a visual vocabulary that is some combination of precision and gesture, of flatness and flirtation with spatial illusion. She depicts and builds fragmented space with patterns that break and fold. The repetition of blacktop with dotted lines becomes the motif of an American romance.

*Thaddeus Mosley*

2021

Thaddeus Mosley's wooden monuments are examples of modernist engineering. They extend beyond logic to become an improvisational forest of forms. Sculpture is revealed to be the physical evidence of emotional growth, an ecosystem of feelings.

*Karyn Olivier*

2020

Having studied psychology, Olivier brings her considerable intelligence, passion, and personal history to her interventions upon memorials in public spaces. In the era of the Confederate monument debate, she reimagines monuments, not by removal but by making them disappear, dissolve, and reflect the viewer by covering them with mirrors. As in *Concrete Block*, mirrors make the bulk of the form transparent, an incongruity that invites intriguing questions. Her work reveals "the complexity of being human" and the dance between poetics and politics.

*Aki Sasamoto*

2021

Aki Sasamoto unfurls her work in both time and space through surprising performances in which she stages a stream of consciousness perforated by improvisation and the boundaries of the knowable. Sasamoto sets herself as performer against backgrounds of specific objects, sculptures, installations, and sites. As she narrates stories and enacts gestures and thoughts against her carefully chosen settings, she catalyzes both text and context, weaving together the parts into a whole that is strangely familiar and starkly poetic.

*Ming Smith*

2021

Ming Smith's extraordinary photographs go straight to the heart. They are skillful and considered and a triumph of quotidian observation. You see the photo and you see the people. The camera gives voice to the many exigencies of reality.

*Elizabeth Tubergen*

2021

Elizabeth Tubergen's sculptures and installations interrogate and challenge normative spatial relationships and social constructs through an unorthodox use of materials and a probing, historically-informed sense of play. Encounters with her forms and structures are occasions for critique as well as contemplation. The works are at once cerebral and sensuous.

*Marie Watt*

2021

Marie Watt tells Blanket Stories. The blanket is a constant of Native American life and it is inextricably tied to the tradition of trade in the Southwest. American heritage and Watt's conspicuous and conscious use of indigenous design principles, oral traditions, and personal experience shape her work's inner logic and awareness of current issues, while its sophistication moves it easily towards the world of painting and sculpture. As she observes, "We are received in blankets, and we leave in blankets."

*Dyani White Hawk*

2021

In a nimble navigation between contemporary and traditional materials, Dyani White Hawk's mixed media works forge new geometries, embracing, in her words, "the dilemmas and contradictions as well as the joys and blessings of a cross-cultural heritage." White Hawk's mixed-heritage Lakota ancestry intertwine in her paintings and sculptural works. She draws upon multiple cultural and visual histories, old and new, with poignant elegance, blessing us with her graceful compositions and contradictions.

*Carmen Winant*

2021

Carmen Winant is an artist using writing and photography, most often in the form of archives of found materials that she gleans, cuts, and reassembles into collages, books, large-scale installations, and specific objects. Taking on universal themes of human life, such as reproduction, labor, and pleasure, Winant reconstructs fragments into new objects that expose new meanings in daring displays that radically expose and re-envision the basic conditions of life, especially female life, in all its glories and traumas.

JOHN KOCH AWARD

*Jennifer Coates*

2021

Jennifer Coates's most recent work is produced by means of an intuitive painting process linked to automatism. Finding mythic, supernatural imagery and telling stories like a diviner reads tea leaves, she reaches back through the history of pastoral painting from Cézanne and Giotto to prehistoric cave painting. The artist exhumes fanciful dreamscapes haunted with half-animal, half-human hybrids, interacting and interlacing with ghosts, deer, entrails, birds, and the threatened forest canopy in which they luminously regenerate and dwell.

*Jennifer Packer*

2021

With the deepest sense of empathy, Jennifer Packer paints portraits, interior scenes, and still lifes. The paint is loose, with airy strokes appearing as if through a deeply psychological encounter with every new subject. Images materialize and dissipate, concurrently vast and intimate—a testament and tribute to those we hold dear and to those we have lost.

GWENDOLYN KNIGHT LAWRENCE AWARDS

*Nicholas Galanin*

2020

As a Tlingit and Unangaꝥ artist, Nicholas Galanin employs indigenous modes of place-making in his multi-disciplinary practice. Through form, image, and sound, Galanin maps avenues for thinking critically about our contemporary moment and imagining futures rife with compassion.

*Jaune Quick-to-See Smith*

2021

Jaune Quick-to-See Smith has been making paintings and prints, profane and sacred, witty and profound, for forty years. Her work carries tremendous weight yet feels light and conversational. Her personal visual language has the power to engage and educate with “astounding clout.” She is an art educator, art advocate, and political activist. This historic moment is what Smith calls “breaking the buckskin ceiling.” It’s time.

*Jessica Stockholder*

2021

In Jessica Stockholder’s wildly chaotic compositions, color draws across space, found objects, and materials, suspending us between the abstract and the concrete in a perceptual world of pigment and texture. This visual expanse, both playful and emotive, presses the boundaries of pictorial possibilities with disparate and unlikely juxtapositions of volume, mass, line, light, and space that refuse a single point of view.

JACOB LAWRENCE AWARDS

*Lauren Halsey*

2021

Through endlessly inventive and expansive sculptural and architectural installations, Lauren Halsey presents the rich fantastical dreams and experiences of her South Central Los Angeles. Loaded with cultural histories, language, style, and the community relationships that foster these aesthetics and experiences, Halsey combats the pervasive gentrification of our nation’s neighborhoods. Simultaneously mourning the tragedy and loss of this phenomenon, she proposes a better, more funkified world for us all to live in.

*Reggie Burrows Hodges*

2021

Reggie Burrows Hodges is an eloquent painter of figures rendered primarily as shapes and silhouettes, actively situated against grounds that are both flattened and deepened, heated up and cooled down, by areas of expressive color choreographed against zones of moody, shadowy tonality. Hodges’s figures are depicted in a range of activity, from a strenuous sporting event to just sitting in a moment of reverie, but the mood of reflection and absorption is always a force in his paintings.

*David Huffman*

2020

David Huffman's large paintings look like they're enjoying the freedom to simply exist. Colors and shapes collide and melt into each other with the serious enthusiasm we expect from good abstract painting. Yet on closer observation woven textiles from Africa and basketball imagery with netting and chains speaks to us of the artist's background as an activist. The whole thing becomes a social abstraction with surprising breadth, hinting even at science fiction through the use of glitter.

WILLARD L. METCALF AWARD

*Ibrahim Said*

2020

History is unmistakable in the intricate details of Ibrahim Said's ceramics, and it comes as no surprise that he hails from a family of potters working within a rich Egyptian and Islamic artistic tradition. While remaining true to this tradition, Said achieves a unique manipulation of form, distinguishing his ceramics as his own artistry.

ROSENTHAL FAMILY FOUNDATION AWARD

*Jerrell Gibbs*

2021

The paintings of Jerrell Gibbs are tender, buoyant, deftly painted, and deeply felt. He captures his subjects' lives in all their quotidian glory: the heat of a summer BBQ, the excitement of a birthday cake with candles, and the languor of lounging on a sultry summer dock or under a cherry tree in bloom, among so much else. The paintings abound with everyday ecstasies.

*Ridley Howard*

2020

Ridley Howard makes clean, clear luminist paintings that can sustain his curiosity. His consistency helps to achieve a balance between geometry and figuration, Piero della Francesca and animation. They are paintings that love painting—the verb and the noun. His style has a charm full of an innocent calculation that delivers pleasure.

## ART PURCHASES

Works by these artists were purchased in 2020 and 2021 and will be donated to museums in the United States.

LAYLAH ALI	FORREST KIRK
AMY BENNETT	SAVANNAH KNOOP
A. K. BURNS	SIOBHAN LIDDELL
PETER CHARLAP	MEDRIE MACPHEE
MIKE CLOUD	ASPEN MAYS
TRENTON DOYLE HANCOCK	KARYN OLIVIER
BARBARA ESS*	RONA PONDICK
R. M. FISCHER	NATHLIE PROVOSTY
ERIK FOSS	ERIN RILEY
CHIE FUEKI	DREAD SCOTT
MAREN HASSINGER	ROGER SHIMOMURA
EJ HAUSER	ELENA SISTO
LESLIE HEWITT	LAVA THOMAS
LONNIE HOLLEY	SIMON TOSKY
RIDLEY HOWARD	WILLIAM VILLALONGO
KATHERINE HUBBARD	SUSAN JANE WALP
ADAM HURWITZ	PETER WILLIAMS
YUN-FEI JI	BRIAN WOOD
CHEYENNE JULIEN	

## AWARD OF MERIT MEDAL FOR SCULPTURE

*Jessica Jackson Hutchins*

2020

Jessica Jackson Hutchins makes rollicking sculptures full of wit, history, and optimism. Many of the works evoke the figure: what it does and how it describes space in various ordinary circumstances. Centuries of humans describing humans from the Venus of Willendorf to Nikki de Saint Phalle rest on her back. She weaves and dances her way through space using whatever she needs—couches, chairs, papier mâché—confident that her alchemy will reinvent the form.

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\*Barbara Ess passed away on March 4, 2021.

AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE  
TO THE ARTS

*Phong Bui*

2021

Artist, curator, critic, and writer Phong Bui has made the *Brooklyn Rail*, where he is Publisher and Artistic Director, into a crucial forum for art and ideas, revitalizing meaningful dialogue across disciplines, politics, and culture. The *Brooklyn Rail* is now over 20 years old, but it has not skipped a beat, responding in especially meaningful ways during the pandemic by creating a sense of community through its daily conversations, readings, and visits to artists' studios. Bui is always out there making the best kind of trouble possible in the art world while opening our eyes to the vibrant creativity around us.

# AWARDS IN LITERATURE

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## ARTS AND LETTERS AWARDS

*Marie Arana*

2020

Peruvian-born Marie Arana presents fiction as historical inquiry in her vivid and elegantly argued writing about Latin America. Her latest book, *Silver, Sword, and Stone: Three Crucibles in the Latin American Story*, shows us the dire effects of countries that have not ceased to be colonized for hundreds of years, and intruders who continue to destroy the souls, homes, and finances of the people through exploitation of resources, forced conversion to Christianity, and violent takeover by corrupt governments. Arana's treatment of these sustained attacks is compelling and undeniable.

*Katori Hall*

2021

Katori Hall's virtuoso playwriting talents allow her the freedom to reimagine Martin Luther King's last night in *The Mountaintop* and then swerve to an apparition of the Blessed Virgin in the jungles of Rwanda in *Our Lady of Kibeho* to the gritty realism of *Pussy Valley's* strip clubs and the narrow line between liberation and exploitation. Hall is an impassioned superb playwright in total control of her vividly uncontrollable characters.

*Saskia Hamilton*

2021

In her sensitive and discerning judgements as a woman of letters, Saskia Hamilton has illuminated American poetry. As a poet, she has patiently accumulated a body of work distinguished by its controlled intensities: hermetic, austere, and mysteriously haunting.

*Joel Harrington*

2020

In *Dangerous Mystic*, Joel Harrington has given us a serene, intelligent, ambitious, and graceful work on one of history's most revered and complex theologians, Meister Eckhart. A scholar and expert on medieval history, Har-

ington's elegant and clear prose reveals the profound simplicity of Eckhart's teaching while instructing us in the vividness of 13th- and 14th-century life.

*Jeremy O. Harris*

2020

*Slave Play* so electrified audiences when it opened off-Broadway last year that it transferred to Broadway where the play had even more impact. The irony of this play's subject—the colonization of the Black mind by white culture—being presented before a largely affluent white audience was not lost. Jeremy O. Harris expanded the conversation on the subject of race with wit and rage. He boldly defied theatrical convention not by uniting the audience, but by dividing it.

*Wayne Koestenbaum*

2020

Poet, essayist, novelist, librettist, painter, Koestenbaum is a rhapsodic, beguiling, stylish writer. Unafraid of being wacky or sentimental or sleazy or scary, he writes what is true and makes us laugh and weep. His heart is magnanimous and his pen is a greedy chronicler of all the obscenity and beauty that is there.

*Yiyun Li*

2021

Yiyun Li is a writer of grave seriousness and accomplishment. Her restraint and precise tooling of language has a powerful effect on the reader, and whether addressing the cruelties of China's Cultural Revolution where people betrayed and damaged one another in the most horrific ways (*The Vagrants*) or striving to recreate a child lost to suicide within the parameters of an impossible conversation (*Where Reasons End*), the work is always honest and coolly exceptional, often devastatingly so.

*Sandra Lim*

2020

In a period absorbed in the explicitly moral and political, Sandra Lim is an anomaly: subtle where others are blunt, glitteringly precise where they are sweeping. These are poems of passion and self-scrutiny and female rage, but Lim is not a poet of explosive feeling. The poems have a prose elegance; they are cool, detached, ruminative, with a kind of whistle-in-the-dark bravado. Here is a mind studying itself and its ambivalence, exact at every turn, and by the end, breathtaking.

*Layli Long Soldier*

2021

“Here, the sentence will be respected,” Layli Long Soldier writes in her poem “38,” which is about 38 Dakota men who were ordered hanged by Abraham Lincoln for their part in the 1862 Sioux uprising. Sentences, pun intended, are not only respected, but they devastate and also heal in Long Soldier’s incantatory, elegiac, and deeply researched work. Part testimony, part invocation and protest, Long Soldier transforms the cold legal jargon of annihilation and erasure into both jeremiads and celebrations of language, community, memory, and survival.

*Megan McDowell*

2020

Considered by many other translators as the gold standard among literary translators from Spanish, Megan McDowell has, for years, brought the most exciting new voices from Latin America and Spain to an English-reading audience. Samanta Schweblin of Argentina, Paulina Flores of Chile, Alejandro Zambra, Mariana Enríquez, Lina Meruane—these are some of the striking and singular voices McDowell has made it possible for us to read. A twin, McDowell has put forth a theory that twindom prepared her to do this work because “a translated text is like an uncanny double of the original.”

*Maaza Mengiste*

2020

In her novels *The Shadow King*, set during the 1914 Italo-Ethiopian War, and *Beneath The Lion’s Gaze*, set in the last days of Haile Selassie’s six-decade rule of Ethiopia, Maaza Mengiste traces the journeys of characters oppressed and revealed by the struggle for self and the legacy of colonialism. Women soldiers defend their homes with antique rifles and stories passed town-to-town; in a later era, an 82-year-old Selassie ends his rule isolated and guarded, lulled to sleep by “the mournful whimpers of his old lion, Tojo.” The author’s lyrical prose, startling and powerful, helps define an enduring people caught up in cataclysmic change: her fiction is a lasting achievement.

*Viet Thanh Nguyen*

2020

In award-winning fiction, short stories, and nonfiction, Viet Thanh Nguyen examines the manipulation of cultural memory and queries identity itself,

interrogating the refugee experience both politically and spiritually. The thorny dissonance of adjacent pasts and present, the pain and beauty of a spy's nuanced confession, the miraculous achievement of language that "speaks better American English than any American," his work gives readers alternative narratives that question representation and reconciliation, defining an ethics of recognition in which the self truly sees "the other."

*Jana Prikryl*

2021

Jana Prikryl is a poet of unique gifts: unexpected images, ingenious syntax, and wide-ranging erudition. But whereas others might have settled for armored virtuosity, she has created something rarer and more original—a voice that is witty, ironic, and despairing in the manner of her great Eastern European predecessors and fused with dazzling linguistic agility. Or freedom, we might say. A mutation not unlike Nabokov's in the vast playground of the English language.

*Adam Rapp*

2021

*The Sound Inside* marks Adam Rapp's stunning Broadway debut. This beautifully examined, unclassifiable—confession?—memoir?—chilling play about a Yale teacher of creative writing and her pupil refuses ever to go where expected and never disappoints in its choices. The ghost of Dostoevsky hovers over all, continually threatening the norm with spontaneous decisions that will radically change a life.

*Kathryn Scanlan*

2021

From a soiled five-year diary found at a midwestern estate sale, Kathryn Scanlan fashioned *Aug 9—Fog*, a minimalist treasure. Shaping and selecting the fragments of time—weather passing eternally—Scanlan gives us the melancholy grace of an unknown woman's life—a life of simplicity, loss, and baffled endurance. Her second book, *The Dominant Animal*, a collection of super-short stories, showcases this young writer's talents and the distinctiveness of her almost painterly eye toward composition.

*Benjamin Taylor*

2021

In two novels, two memoirs, a book about Venice, and more, Taylor has moved through the literary world with a heart and mind that celebrate some of the highest achievements in the realm. With eloquence, humor, and limitless appreciation, he has made public lives intimate and private lives familiar. His recent memoir, *Here We Are: My Friendship with Philip Roth*, is a model of the particular love story that is a deep and enduring friendship. This book is a gift to Roth and to us.

BLAKE-DODD PRIZE

*Janine di Giovanni*

2020

A longtime war correspondent and foreign affairs specialist, di Giovanni has witnessed horrific human conflicts in devastated countries that include Rwanda, Afghanistan, Bosnia, Iraq, and Syria. She has noted the way chaos quickly replaces disbelief among the residents of ruined cities—ballet lessons one day, mortars the next—and the way Aleppo, which had been thought to be “the new Marrakesh” succumbed to soul-destroying violence. She writes powerfully of love and of the heroism of ordinary people; she asks victims in the worst of war, “How will you restart your life?”

BENJAMIN HADLEY DANKS AWARD

*Hanya Yanagihara*

2020

The intelligence and coolness with which Yanagihara approaches and attends to her disturbing themes and subjects is remarkable as is her assurance that an amoral universe provides as much beauty and affection as it does disgust and cruelty. Scientific inquiry (*The People in the Trees*) results in mere depravity, while a life of great suffering and physical abuse (*A Little Life*) can never be redeemed by understanding and care. Dangerous material in fiction, smoothly and smartly handled.

## E. M. FORSTER AWARD

*Stephen Sexton*

2020

Joyce's Dublin, Faulkner's Yoknapatawpha County, Stein's Paris—the place is always an invention of the writer. In the case of the Northern Irish poet, Stephen Sexton, it would seem that he himself is an invention of Nintendo, specifically the world of Super Mario and his brother, Luigi. In negotiating the levels of a video game, Stephen Sexton has found an objective correlative for coming to terms with the loss of his mother that is as eloquent as it is unlikely.

## SUE KAUFMAN PRIZE FOR FIRST FICTION

Isabella Hammad, *The Parisian*

2020

In Isabella Hammad's nuanced, sweeping first novel, she deftly describes women constrained by sharply contrasting patriarchal cultures and traces collective punishment of the Arab world after the 1936 Revolt. *The Parisian* interrogates love, memory, and a storied culture no longer defined by the "dust of power trapped in the seams of garments."

Douglas Stuart, *Shuggie Bain*

2021

This harsh beauty spotlights an effeminate boy's loyalty to his ruined alcoholic mother in 1980s Glasgow. Through the lenses of poverty and addiction, Douglas Stuart transports readers into brutal lives with diminishing chances for improvement. The coarse portrayals derive from the assurance and vision of the author, a self-proclaimed "child of trauma." The diabolical manipulation of women by men who are as vivid and doomed as their wives still leaves room for the occasional way out in this unrelenting novel of immeasurable impact.

## ADDISON M. METCALF AWARD IN LITERATURE

*Kali Fajardo-Anstine*

2021

Kali Fajardo-Anstine's remarkable story collection *Sabrina & Corina* immediately plunges us into the tempestuous lives of tenacious yet vulnerable women who are constantly trying to keep the land from "swallowing them whole." In these less mythologized tales of the American West, Fajardo-Anstine brings us stories of those who are often left in the shadows, or pushed way beyond the margins. Brilliantly detailed and urgently told, *Sabrina & Corina* announces the arrival of a magnificently gifted writer whose work leaves the reader both astonished and breathless.

## KATHERINE ANNE PORTER AWARD

*Christine Schutt*

2020

A peerless American prose stylist, Christine Schutt captures the permeable boundaries and quiet blur of danger in human interactions. Her precise clarity, sensual layering of language, and cadenced sentences define an original body of work that is sensually associative and musically rhythmic. Her story collections and novels evoke bittersweet loss and the ineffable beauty of possibility. With rigorous, poetic brevity, she sets the stealthy power of love ticking beyond the page, implying a depth of narrative consciousness that is complex and darkly miraculous.

## ARTHUR RENSE POETRY PRIZE

*Mary Ruefle*

2020

One of the great American originals, Mary Ruefle writes as a spirit newly hatched without existing convictions or prejudices. Like Moore and Dickinson, her iconic predecessors, she prefers marginalia to grand utterance; she conducts her unique experiments and scrutinies with a kind of joyful melancholy and inimitable logic, which, in these astonishing poems, both renews the world and revives our capacity for wonder at it.

## ROSENTHAL FAMILY FOUNDATION AWARD

Valeria Luiselli, *Lost Children Archive*

2020

“Documentary Fiction” is how Valeria Luiselli describes her most recent novel, a family road trip from New York to the border in Arizona. Like much of her nonfiction, *Lost Children Archive* takes on migration, immigration, and dislocation. Luiselli’s work on behalf of undocumented children needing to enter the U.S. is also at the center of her work *on* the page. With compassion and literary restraint, the author gives us emblematic scenes that define the character of government as well as those who are at its mercy in the ongoing crisis at the border. This book is a deeply humane accomplishment.

C Pam Zhang, *How Much of These Hills Is Gold*

2021

This original and beautifully conceived novel by C Pam Zhang is a visionary and technical feat, conjuring the American West during the gold rush with a Chinese family at the center. The two sisters, one of whom identifies as male, are fresh characters who enliven a time and territory we thought we knew. The restrained prose fits the merciless experience, giving way often enough to sensuality and joy.

## HAROLD D. VURSELL MEMORIAL AWARD

*Garth Greenwell*

2021

Garth Greenwell is a searing, incandescent writer of prose whose sexually explicit work is elegantly written, ruthlessly honest, and distressingly beautiful. He has thus far written as an American abroad and taken Sofia, Bulgaria, as his primary stage. If the modernist Greek poet Constantine Cavafy had been recast as an American teacher living in Eastern Europe, then these are the books he might have written.

*Alex Kotlowitz*

2020

Alex Kotlowitz is a meticulous and compassionate chronicler of urban poverty and violence. Lending a respectful ear to members of his Chicago community over years and lifetimes, he tells their stories incisively and explo-

sively. His books illuminate astonishing national inequities through the lens of individual experience.

## THORNTON WILDER PRIZE FOR TRANSLATION

*Linda Asher*

2020

The plasticity of Linda Asher's language is singular in its ability to convey the original intent of the writer. She makes "reading between the lines" synonymous with "translating between the lines." It is not only her great alacrity of mind and skill that bring her translations into a heightened state of elegance for the reader, but her curiosity with words and what they mean to the soul of a particular writer or discipline or culture. Her translations are thrilling, rigorous, and full of wit and enthusiastic depth.

## JOHN UPDIKE AWARDS

*Stephen Adly Guirgis*

2021

Since 2000, with *Jesus Hopped the 'A' Train*, Guirgis has created a body of work that astonishes for its sheer exuberance, street eloquence, and brilliant craftsmanship. His recent plays, from the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Between Riverside and Crazy* to the Broadway hit *The Motherfucker With the Hat* to last season's dazzling *Halfway Bitches Go Straight To Heaven*, walk a tight rope over chaos but are rescued by Guirgis's innate intelligence and generous moral relativism. He finds order, peace, and humanity in life's most challenging events.

*Diane Seuss*

2021

Diane Seuss was raised in a small town in Southwestern Michigan, and her wild, boundless, somewhat baroque imagination is fueled by images from hardscrabble working-class America. Seuss does not heroize the people she writes about, but she does give them distinction, honor, and individuality as she considers the entrapments and freedoms of rural culture and landscape, its geographical, class, and racial borderlines. Her well-crafted stylish poems document an America that is being driven toward obsolescence, and she will not let it go quietly or unnoticed.

## E. B. WHITE AWARD

*Kate DiCamillo*

2021

In the introduction to *Charlotte's Web*, Kate DiCamillo inadvertently gives us the perfect summation of her own body of work. She writes, "Every word of *Charlotte's Web* bears the full weight of White's love for the people, seasons, animals, and arachnids of this world. And every word of the book shows how we can bear the triumphs and despairs, the wonders and heartbreaks, the small and large glories and tragedies of being here. We can bear it all by loving it all." What a pleasure it is to marry the names of E. B. White and Kate DiCamillo together with this award, as their essential and big-hearted vision of the world has long united them in the minds of readers everywhere.

## MORTON DAUWEN ZABEL AWARD

*Brenda Hillman*

2020

Brenda Hillman began as a lyric poet of extraordinary gifts and almost immediately grew impatient with those gifts and that form. In the nine books she has written since *White Dress*, she has transformed herself into a poet of immense boldness and daring; her most recent books are rooted in broad social and ecological interests: "passion" is a better term. She has invented a kind of dialogue with the earth; she writes with an intimacy and directness few equal and a magnificence of conception almost no one else aspires to.

## AWARD OF MERIT MEDAL FOR THE NOVEL

*Chang-rae Lee*

2021

Chang-rae Lee is something of a writer's writer—from his very first book he has been deeply admired by his peers for his immaculate prose, imaginative premises, and narrative surprises. While seriously addressing the complex subject of cultural and national identity, his novels also smuggle in genre—the detective story, speculative fiction, food writing. And without ever repeating himself, he has created a precise and historically sensitive body of work that has redefined the American novel.

## MILDRED AND HAROLD STRAUSS LIVINGS

*Salvatore Scibona*

2021

Salvatore Scibona's work is grand, tragic, epic. His novel, *The Volunteer*, about war, masculinity, abandonment, and grimly executed grace, is an intricate masterpiece of plot, scene, and troubled character. In language both meticulous and extravagant, Scibona brings to the American novel a mythic fury, a fresh greatness.

*Laura van den Berg*

2021

Accomplished in both the novel and the short story, Laura van den Berg continues to surprise and impress. Her characters long to escape the situations they find themselves in but as the Latin phrase *Auribus teneo lupum* (which provides the title to her latest collection *I Hold a Wolf by the Ears*) suggests, they discover there is no easy way out. Both spooky and serene, her work deals in terrains both psychological and geographical and captures the unease and time-twisted-ness of being very far from home and a familiar self.

## CHRISTOPHER LIGHTFOOT WALKER AWARD

*Leslie Marmon Silko*

2020

Leslie Marmon Silko has a fierce and prophetic voice rooted in the Native lands that gave her birth. She sees beyond our own time and creates a contemporary cosmology through literature that honors ancestors and the generations to come. In *Ceremony* she writes, "I will tell you something about stories: They aren't just entertainment. Don't be fooled. They are all we have, all we have to fight off illness and death." Silko's writing is as "strong and delicate as spider's silk," weaving disparate worlds together. Her body of work is alchemical, a reckoning and a healing. Her words move water and shatter stone.

## WILLIAM DEAN HOWELLS MEDAL

Richard Powers for *The Overstory*

2020

Richard Powers sets in motion an immense cast of human characters over more than a century, but the novel so radically redefines the art of fiction that the people are not the principal protagonists. This is a novel about the mysterious life of trees and the immense yet fragile interconnectedness of nature in which people blunder about, often destructively. As one of the characters decides, paralyzed by a stroke and watching trees out his window, “Life is mobilized on a vastly larger scale, and the world is failing precisely because no novel can make the contest for the world as compelling as the struggles between a few lost people.” Word by word, sentence by sentence, Powers writes a scintillating prose, but he’s also master of the majestic sweep and imagination of the “overstory.”

## AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO THE ARTS

*Bill Henderson*

2020

Bill Henderson is the very embodiment of selfless service to the arts. As editor and visionary publisher of Pushcart Press, he has celebrated the under-celebrated for over 40 years by publishing work from small and independent presses as well as deserving literary manuscripts rejected by larger publishers. His prestigious annual Pushcart Prize anthology also brings notice and encouragement to essayists, poets, and short story writers where before there was little to none. In a world where profit-driven publishing proliferates, Henderson’s press remains a beacon for literary work.

# AWARDS IN MUSIC

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## ARTS AND LETTERS AWARDS

*Gabriela Frank*

2021

Exploring her multicultural roots through her prolific music creation, Gabriela Frank has established herself as an outstanding composer with her own voice. Her four-movement *Walkabout: Concerto for Orchestra* reflects the vivid cultural scenes in traditional Peruvian life with dramatic contrast in orchestral textures. Her *Suite Mestiza* for solo violin inspired by the mixed-race cultures of Andean South America is dynamic and idiomatic. She has made unique contributions to supporting emerging composers in society.

*Annie Gosfield*

2021

Annie Gosfield is a composer who brilliantly combines found sounds, noise, and machines with acoustic and electric instruments. Her works range from chamber and orchestral music to opera, and incorporate such diverse sources as 1930s radio to wartime air-raid sirens. Her recent opera *War of the Worlds* deftly exhibits her keen ear for texture and timbre.

*Ted Hearne*

2020

Ted Hearne's music fuses a wide array of genres and styles into a vibrant, individual voice. Active as a performer as well as a composer, his works engage with urgent political and cultural issues. *Place*, which premiered at the BAM Next Wave Festival, considers gentrification and displacement. *Sound from the Bench* takes up the issue of corporate personhood, employing text from the Supreme Court's oral arguments. He is a member of the vocal-electronics duo R WE WHO R WE.

*Amy Beth Kirsten*

2020

Amy Beth Kirsten's work blurs the boundaries between music composition and dramatic performance. Her genre-defying compositions transform musicians into actors, concert halls into theaters, and instruments into stage

sets. Kirsten knows that what we see in live performance can be as important as what we hear, and, with her innovative additions of narrative, costume, and lighting, a concert can become a much deeper, more powerful musical experience.

*Alexandre Lunsqui*

2020

The music of Brazilian-American composer Alexandre Lunsqui displays a fertile, wild imagination. His ear for timbre and texture is acute, and it is grounded in a solid feeling for harmony and an inventive sense of form. His use of extended instrumental techniques is ingenious and integral to his conceptions. His rhythmic sense is astonishing. He is creating a body of work that stands at the forefront of contemporary Latin American art music.

*Andreia Pinto Correia*

2020

Andreia Pinto Correia creates intricate musical fabrics which are always thoughtful and meticulously constructed. While exploring abstract relationships of sound, her music also connects to the outside world. Her impressive *String Quartet No. 1, "Unvanquished Space"* is spun from lines of Hart Crane's epic poem, *The Bridge*; her *Elegia a Al-Mu'tamid* is a musical homage to a forgotten poet-king from what is now Portugal. Born in Lisbon, she is deeply influenced by Portuguese literature and culture.

*David Sanford*

2021

David Sanford is a maximalist, a composer whose music is layered and rhythmically alive. Using a rich spectrum of pitch, works like *Scherzo Grosso II* and *IV* draw on big band, groove, and multifaceted polyphony to fashion music unlike any other. Beyond their rhythmic originality, scores like *Promise*, *Seventh Avenue Kaddish*, and *Prayer: In Memoriam Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.* swirl and change unpredictably, with fluid feeling, as only music is capable of revealing.

*Trevor Weston*

2021

Trevor Weston's music mesmerizes with shimmering colors and driving rhythms. His *Flying Fish*, commissioned by Carnegie Hall and the American Composers Orchestra, draws on his family roots in Barbados, employing nu-

merous percussion metals within the large orchestral sound to create fluttering imagery of flying fish in the surrounding waters. Weston’s extensive work in writing for choir includes compositions performed by the Choir of Trinity Wall Street to Roomful of Teeth. His work has been described as a “syncopated marriage of intellect and feeling.”

## BENJAMIN HADLEY DANKS AWARD

*Yotam Haber*

2021

Yotam Haber, Dutch-born but at home in the world, has written music meant to apply locally—in honor of the dead at the Birmingham, Alabama bombing at the 16th Street Baptist Church; *New Water Music* to be performed in the waterways of New Orleans; and *Little Bird*, a newly imagined concerto for his own high school in Nicolet, Wisconsin. All Yotam Haber’s compositions are conceived and executed with a skilled and impassioned imagination, and are aimed directly at listeners who await the latest in his timely and necessary music.

## WALTER HINRICHSEN AWARD

*Shawn E. Okpebholo*

2021

Shawn E. Okpebholo composes graceful and colorful music of the heart. His exceptional ear for pitch, harmony, and timbre, allied with his engaging imagination, result in impressive, ever-compelling compositions which, while stylistically diverse, always remain sincere, personal, and searching. Nuanced, soulful, and expressive, Okpebholo’s artistry and body of work are vivid, powerful, and imbued with beauty and vitality.

*Pamela Z*

2020

Pamela Z is a composer, performer, media artist, and technologist who explores, often with a sly sense of humor, the relationship between live and electronic performance, between real people and their electronic shadows. Her use of sampling, looping, and electronic processing in her own solo performances has made her a pioneer among artists who use computers to extend the reach of their physical and musical selves.

## ANDREW IMBRIE AWARD

*David Hertzberg*

2020

David Hertzberg surrounds achingly beautiful melodies that unfold at a leisurely pace with unforgettable, crystalline, and lush instrumental colors. *Spectre of the Spheres* begins with very striking high string harmonics doubled in percussion over flute tremolos from which rich string chords rise. A gorgeous melody eventually emerges and evaporates and the harmonics return. His opera *The Wake World* has even lusher textures and lovely vocal lines; it is fantastical and dramatic and unfolds at a masterfully unhurried pace.

*Juri Seo*

2021

Juri Seo is a very forward-looking composer who is not afraid to examine up close, courageously and imaginatively, our relationship to our musical past. In a bold half-hour sonata she tangles with Beethoven's *Hammerklavier*, reverently and irreverently dissecting and reconstructing—demanding that Beethoven continue to work for us, that this inheritance opens new paths. Her assertion of kinship is not ironic, but a burst of optimism about where we are now.

## CHARLES IVES FELLOWSHIPS

*Timo Andres*

2020

Timo Andres writes music that squeezes maximum variety, expressivity, and beauty from a minimum of materials. *The Blind Banister* is built from perfect fifth tremolos sequencing downward slowly by step. Those become the basis of most of the piece, and every subsequent iteration sounds fresh and surprising, yet familiar. His *Piano Trio* is built on upward arpeggios that also sequence downwards, that are developed harmonically, melodically, and texturally, and build to a beautifully layered climax that feels like it goes at several speeds simultaneously.

*Gabriel Kahane*

2021

Gabriel Kahane calls himself a songwriter, yet he is much more. His songs are rare gems inlaid with unusual harmonic and rhythmic gambits that nevertheless feel natural. Distinguished by its psychological and sociological concerns, Kahane's work is a showcase for the compassion and empathy he brings to the characters who inhabit his songs. His *Empire Liquor Mart*, an account of the shooting death of Latasha Harlins, collapses the Great Migration, the 1992 uprising in Los Angeles, and the vulnerability of the Black body into a wrenching and masterful nine-minute song.

*Narong Prangcharoen*

2021

Blending the cultures of East and West, Narong Prangcharoen's music has inspired thousands of audiences from Thailand to America, from Kansas City to the whole world. His global activity in new music has touched the hearts of people of all ages. His *Volcanic Breath* for brass quintet and orchestra and *Luminary* for piano and orchestra have created powerful and colorful sonority inspired by nature as well as his rich love for humanity.

*Matthew Ricketts*

2020

The music of Canadian-American composer Matthew Ricketts is lyrical, contrapuntal, rhythmically complex, and highly nuanced. An opera on an Inuit legend combines spoken word, recitative and arioso vocal writing, and narrative drive. A concerto for two trombones and orchestra is a noble and gorgeously orchestrated utterance. This is a composer with an independent voice and high artistic goals.

CHARLES IVES SCHOLARSHIPS

2020

JACK HUGHES · AARON ISRAEL LEVIN · HUIJUAN LING  
NATE MAY · DAVID CLAY METTENS · JASON MULLIGAN

2021

WILLIAM DOUGHERTY · ALEXIS LAMB · EHUD PERLMAN  
FRANCES POLLOCK · JOEL THOMPSON · SHELLEY WASHINGTON

## WLADIMIR AND RHODA LAKOND AWARD

*Wang Lu*

2021

Wang Lu's music springs from two sources: her deep appreciation of Western Classical music and, even more, the streets of urban China, with their clangorous mixture of noises, traditional songs, and jarring juxtapositions of old and new. Some of her pieces incorporate the speech contours of her native Xi'an dialect into a distinctive amalgam of Chinese and Western stylistic traits. All of her music shows a flair for colorful instrumentation and a rich imagination that embraces unpredictable stylistic shifts.

## GODDARD LIEBERSON FELLOWSHIPS

*Jeremy Gill*

2020

Jeremy Gill's music possesses a stylistic complexity and dramatic richness that rewards attentive listening. It is both introspective and full of energy and wit. His respect for historical structural forms gives his music an essential cohesion, and he has produced quite a few works based on those of earlier masters. In one, he takes Bach's *Cantata No. 80* and reimagines the material in a novel way, letting Bach's notes "out of the bag so that they frolic and have great adventures." Here we have a composer who has contributed much to our present musical canon.

*Lei Liang*

2021

The music of Chinese-American composer Lei Liang combines East and West in a colorful and dramatic fusion. His versatility ranges from brilliant orchestral and theatrical works to gentle chamber pieces. He is a master craftsman and orchestrator, yet the lasting tone of his music is nuanced and intimate, as if everything depended on the perfectly shaped gesture.

*Adam Schoenberg*

2020

Adam Schoenberg has a youthful and optimistic voice. His work is unabashedly tonal, rich in color, and always lyrical. His orchestral work, *Finding Rothko*, has a luminous grandeur that beautifully reflects the artist's magnificent

panels of color. His violin concerto, *Orchard in Fog*, is a spiritual and touching document in which the solo violin is not pitted against the orchestra, but leads it in a hazy prayerful journey.

*Tyshawn Sorey*

2021

Tyshawn Sorey's music-making defies categorization. He is at once an amazing jazz percussionist, an avant-garde improviser, and a composer of meticulously crafted and expressive musical scores. Particularly memorable is *Perle Noire*, a semi-theatrical work that transforms Josephine Baker's singing into a searing lament. His musical voice is so compelling that he can incorporate disparate influences, from neo-Romantic harmony to Feldman's radical meditative spirit, without sacrificing his individuality.

## VIRGIL THOMSON AWARD IN VOCAL MUSIC

*James Primosch*

2020

With a substantial body of compositions, particularly an impressive list of vocal solo and choral works created over the past three decades, James Primosch has established himself as an outstanding composer who has profound sonic imagination and sophisticated craftsmanship. His orchestral song cycle, *Songs for Adam*, is exquisite, dramatic, and full of power and emotion. His vocal works have been frequently performed by eminent musicians in this country and recorded for worldwide distribution.

# AWARDS IN MUSICAL THEATER

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## RICHARD RODGERS AWARDS IN MUSICAL THEATER

STAGED READINGS

2020

*In the Green*

*Book, music, and lyrics by Grace McLean*

*The Loophole*

*Music and lyrics by Jay Adana; Book and bars by Zeniba Now*

STUDIO PRODUCTIONS

2021

*The Monster*

*Book by Chelsea Marcantel;*

*Music and lyrics by Michael Mahler and Alan Schmuckler*

*Oratorio for Living Things*

*Music and lyrics by Heather Christian*

*TL;DR: Thelma Louise; Dyke Remix*

*Book and lyrics by EllaRose Chary*

*Music and lyrics by Brandon James Gwinn*

# GOLD MEDALS

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## THE GOLD MEDAL FOR ARCHITECTURE

*Peter Eisenman*

2020

Peter Eisenman has had an equally distinguished career both as an architect and as an architectural theorist and educator. He was the founder of the seminal Institute for Architecture and Urban Studies in New York and is currently serving as a professor in the Yale School of Architecture. Among the exceptional works that he has designed and realised is the Wexner Center for the Visual Arts and Fine Arts Library on the campus of The Ohio State University and the City of Culture of Galicia complex in Santiago de Compostela, Spain. Of these, the most renowned and moving work is unquestionably the subtle sculptural Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe, completed in 2005 as a dramatic landform in the center of Berlin.

## THE GOLD MEDAL FOR HISTORY

*David W. Blight*

2020

In his recent eloquently written book, *Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom*, David W. Blight brings the reader so close to Douglass that we almost have the illusion of living Douglass's life alongside him, sharing his struggles and his thoughts. Blight accomplishes this by ample quotation from, and critical examination of, Douglass's three autobiographies; innumerable speeches and letters; and by building up, detail by vivid detail, the intellectual and political context in which Douglass came into his own as orator, political activist, abolitionist, and—as Blight forcefully argues—a great American writer. In his five previous books on the Civil War, Reconstruction, and their aftermath, Blight has established a magisterial record of the struggle for civil rights in the United States.

## THE GOLD MEDAL FOR MUSIC

*Yehudi Wyner*

2021

Singularly musical, generous, and passionate, Yehudi Wyner has spent his life immersed in composing, playing, conducting, and teaching. He is a true ambassador in the belief that the history of civilization is written in art whose creation and appreciation is universal across continents, cultures, and languages, while, at the same time, is intensely personal. A Rome and Pulitzer Prize recipient, Wyner has taught at Yale, SUNY Purchase, Harvard, Brandeis, and Tanglewood, and has been honored with concerts worldwide, as well as countless recordings and commissions. Generations of thankful pupils and musical collaborators are indebted to Yehudi Wyner. Sparkle-in-the-eye Yehudi is a beloved colleague and friend.

## THE GOLD MEDAL FOR POETRY

*Rita Dove*

2021

Rita Dove penetrates the cultural smokescreen of our history, interrogating national memory and longing in books of remarkable range, composing Black lives circa 1920s Ohio in the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Thomas and Beulah*, and a biracial musical prodigy circa 1803 Paris in *Sonata Mulattica*. Rejecting nostalgia with clarity of intelligence and heartache, her tensile poetry is powerfully compressed, rigorously, lyrically musical, and undeniably influential. The first Black Poet Laureate at the age of forty, she edited *The Penguin Anthology of Twentieth-Century American Poetry* and has received both the National Humanities Medal and the National Medal of Arts. Her work represents a superb poetic accomplishment over four decades.

## AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND LETTERS

**T**HE 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. Election to the Academy is considered the highest formal recognition of artistic merit in this country. Early members include William Merritt Chase, Childé Hassam, Julia Ward Howe, Henry James, Edward MacDowell, Theodore Roosevelt, Augustus Saint-Gaudens, John Singer Sargent, Mark Twain, and Edith Wharton. Each year, in addition to electing new members as vacancies occur, 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.

In fulfilling its mission, the Academy’s most important activity has always been the recognition, through its annual awards, of outstanding achievement in architecture, visual art, literature, and music composition. The recipients of these awards are chosen by committees composed of Academy members. In 2020 and 2021, the Academy gave awards to 160 recipients; the total amount expended for awards and grants was \$2.5 million.

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