



Association of Writers
& Writing Programs

2019 AWP Conference & Bookfair
March, 27-30, 2019, **Portland, Oregon**
Oregon Convention Center

#AWP19 Featured Events

A Reading with Maxine Hong Kingston, Marilyn Chin, and Carmen Gimenez Smith, Sponsored by Kundiman

Oregon Ballroom 201-202, Oregon Convention Center, Level 2

Thursday, March 28, 12noon – 1:15 p.m.

Participants: Maxine Hong Kingston, Marilyn Chin, Carmen Gimenez Smith

Three prominent and essential writers take the stage to give readings of their work. A discussion follows on a variety of topics, ranging from craft to practice to activism, as we celebrate and further a discussion of Asian American and Latinx identity and solidarity. This event is moderated by CantoMundo cofounder Deborah Paredez.

A Reading and Conversation with Paul Guest, Aisha Sasha John, Aldrin Valdez, Sponsored by Poets House

Portland Ballroom 253-254, Oregon Convention Center, Level 2

Thursday, March 28, 12noon – 1:15 p.m.

Participants: Paul Guest, Aisha Sasha John, Aldrin Valdez

Three award-winning poets, Paul Guest, Aisha Sasha John, and Aldrin Valdez, representing the rich diversity and range of contemporary poetry, read from their work and discuss the roles of mentorship, accessibility, and the inter-disciplines in poetry.

A Reading & Conversation with Dawn Lundy Martin, Morgan Parker, and Evie Shockley, Sponsored by Cave Canem

Portland Ballroom 253-254, Oregon Convention Center, Level 2

Thursday, March 28, 1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Participants: Dawn Lundy Martin, Morgan Parker, Evie Shockley

Three award-winning poets give brief readings, followed by a moderated conversation about poetry as a space for complex negotiations and radical re-imaginings. While the meaning of diversity is being debated, these poets' unique voices and varied strategies expand the discourse beyond considerations of race and ethnicity. Their views of the poet as artist and social being disrupt familiar tropes assigned to “the writer of color.”

Writing the Personal through Fiction and Nonfiction, Sponsored by Grove/Atlantic, Hugo House, and Seattle Arts & Lectures

Oregon Ballroom 201-202, Oregon Convention Center, Level 2

Thursday, March 28, 1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Participants: Terese Marie Mailhot, Pam Houston, G. Willow Wilson

Join three highly acclaimed, award-winning writers— *New York Times*-bestselling author Terese Marie Mailhot, *New York Times*-notable author Pam Houston, and Hugo award-winner G. Willow Wilson—as they discuss the rewards and challenges of depicting culture, landscape, trauma, and family across genres.

PSA Presents: Dorothea Lasky, Roger Reeves, and Solmaz Sharif

Oregon Ballroom 201-202, Oregon Convention Center, Level 2

Thursday, March 28, 3:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

Participants: Dorothea Lasky, Roger Reeves, Solmaz Sharif

A reading featuring three nationally recognized, award-winning, distinct contemporary poets. The audience will hear selections from these poets' lauded recent collections, in addition to new work.

The Authors Guild Presents: Tayari Jones and Rebecca Makkai in Conversation

Portland Ballroom 253-254, Oregon Convention Center, Level 2

Thursday, March 28, 3:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

Participants: Tayari Jones, Rebecca Makkai

Join Tayari Jones and Rebecca Makkai for a reading followed by a conversation.

Consequences of Silence, Sponsored by Blue Flower Arts

Oregon Ballroom 201-202, Oregon Convention Center, Level 2

Thursday, March 28, 4:30 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.

Participants: Simon Armitage, Samiya Bashir, Marcelo Hernandez Castillo, Camille Dungy

As poets, we love language—and fight with it. Language (in the mouth, on the page) is one way humans can experience and express the world: not only words on a page, but a bodily feeling as one speaks and hears poetry. These are ways language creates meaning, and helps us define ourselves, and belong. The illusion of belonging is when language fails us; draws us in, but holds us at a distance. True belonging is when language connects us across time, languages, cultures, and emotional divides.

The National Book Critics Circle Presents: Paul Beatty and Joan Silber

Portland Ballroom 253-254, Oregon Convention Center, Level 2

Thursday, March 28, 4:30 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.

Participants: Paul Beatty, Joan Silber

Two National Book Critics Circle honored novelists—Paul Beatty and Joan Silber—read from their work and talk with NBCC President Kate Tuttle about inspiration, research, awards (Beatty also won the Man Booker; Silber, the PEN/Faulkner), evolving forms, writing about race, the unique challenges of writing in these times, and the imaginative process that shapes their originality. Consider this a dual master class in the art of fiction.

#AWP19 Keynote Address by Colson Whitehead, Sponsored by Oregon State University

Oregon Ballroom, Oregon Convention Center, Level 2

Thursday, March 28, 8:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Colson Whitehead is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Underground Railroad*, an Oprah's Book Club selection and winner of the National Book Award and Pulitzer Prize), *The Noble Hustle*, *Zone One*, *Sag Harbor*, *The Intuitionist*, *John Henry Days*, *Apex Hides the Hurt*, and the collection of essays *The Colossus of New York*. Whitehead has received a MacArthur Fellowship, a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Whiting Writers Award, the Dos Passos Prize, a fellowship at the Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers, and he was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for *John Henry Days*. He has taught at the University of Houston, Columbia University, Brooklyn College, Hunter College, New York University, Princeton University, Wesleyan University, and he has been a writer in residence at Vassar College, the University of Richmond, and the University of Wyoming. He lives in New York City.

Martín Espada, Sponsored by the Poetry Foundation

Portland Ballroom 253-254, Oregon Convention Center, Level 2

Friday, March 29, 12noon – 1:15 p.m.

Participants: Martín Espada

Martín Espada is a poet, editor, essayist, and translator. His latest poetry collection is *Vivas to Those Who Have Failed*. Other books of poems include *The Trouble Ball*, *The Republic of Poetry*, *Alabanza*, and *A Mayan Astronomer in Hell's Kitchen*. His many honors include the 2018 Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize, the Shelley Memorial Award, the Robert Creeley Award, the National Hispanic Cultural Center Literary Award, an Academy of American Poets Fellowship, the PEN/Revson Fellowship, and a Guggenheim Fellowship. A former tenant lawyer in Boston's Latino community, Espada is a professor at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

The Strengths of Complexity and the Power of Limitations: Writers on Disability

Oregon Ballroom 201-202, Oregon Convention Center, Level 2

Friday, March 29, 12noon – 1:15 p.m.

Participants: Sandra Gail Lambert, Naomi Ortiz, Esmé Weijun Wang

These authors are diverse in identities and disability, but each of them writes in a way that confronts what is considered normal. Their work includes the resilience of a ferociously ambitious self, the spiritual experience of a day-to-day life that can be a tug of war between chaos and order, the sometimes funny in using a wheelchair, and essential connections to the natural world, as well as an exploration of the intersection between disability, queerness, race, culture, and desire. The reading will be followed by a moderated discussion between the panelists.

A Reading & Conversation with Kaveh Akbar, Jos Charles, and Fady Joudah, Sponsored by Alice James Books and Milkweed Editions

Oregon Ballroom 201-202, Oregon Convention Center, Level 2

Friday, March 29, 1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Participants: Kaveh Akbar, Jos Charles, Fady Joudah

Three award-winning poets sharing their most recent work: In *Footnotes in the Order of Disappearance*, Fady Joudah finds tenderness for the other, the dead, and the disappeared. In *feeld*, Jos Charles offers a lyrical unraveling of the circuitry of gender and speech. In *Calling a*

Wolf a Wolf, Kaveh Akbar confronts addiction and the strenuous path of recovery, beginning with the wilds of the mind. Introduced and moderated by Victoria Chang.

A Reading and Conversation with Erica Jong, Lidia Yuknavitch, and Raymond Luczak, Sponsored by Red Hen Press

Portland Ballroom 253-254, Oregon Convention Center, Level 2

Friday, March 29, 1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Participants: Erica Jong, Raymond Luczak, Lidia Yuknavitch

In the 21st century, where has the story gone? Are we living and writing a whole new narrative? Paying attention to characters we didn't notice, seeing what's wrong with heroes and saints, and embracing outlaws and fighters for truth? Stories take on new shapes as we move into the future.

Nicole Chung and Lisa Ko in Conversation, Sponsored by PEN America

Oregon Ballroom 201-202, Oregon Convention Center, Level 2

Friday, March 29, 3:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

Participants: Nicole Chung, Lisa Ko

Join Nicole Chung and Lisa Ko in conversation.

Swamps, Forests, & Borders: Literature of Place & Displace, Sponsored by Grove/Atlantic, Hugo House, and Seattle Arts & Lectures

Portland Ballroom 253-254, Oregon Convention Center, Level 2

Friday, March 29, 3:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

Participants: Emily Fridlund, Luis Alberto Urrea, Karen Russell

From the surreal swamps of Florida to the gothic woods of the upper Midwest to the fraught US-Mexico border, the American landscape has long fired up the imaginations of writers and readers. In this panel, renowned authors Emily Fridlund, Karen Russell, and Luis Alberto Urrea will read from their work and discuss how they have been influenced by landscapes both external and internal, actual and invented, political and personal.

A Reading & Conversation with Tarfia Faizullah, Tess Gallagher and Ilya Kaminsky, Sponsored by Graywolf Press

Oregon Ballroom 201-202, Oregon Convention Center, Level 2

Friday, March 29, 4:30 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.

Participants: Tarfia Faizullah, Tess Gallagher, Ilya Kaminsky

Join award-winning and critically acclaimed poets Tarfia Faizullah (*Registers of Illuminated Villages*), Tess Gallagher (*Is, Is Not*), and Ilya Kaminsky (*Deaf Republic*) as they read from and discuss their latest books of poetry. In poems touching on themes of disability, immigration, war, and the resilience of spirit, these three authors speak directly to the contemporary moment with distinct and original voices. Introduced and moderated by Graywolf Press executive editor Jeff Shotts.

Ariel Levy, Danzy Senna, and Cheryl Strayed: A Reading and Conversation, Sponsored by Penguin Random House Speakers Bureau

Portland Ballroom 253-254, Oregon Convention Center, Level 2

Friday, March 29, 4:30 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.

Participants: Ariel Levy, Danzy Senna, Cheryl Strayed

Contemporary powerhouses Cheryl Strayed, Ariel Levy, and Danzy Senna read and discuss their writing processes, inspirations, and critically acclaimed works. Cheryl Strayed is a writer, novelist, and advice columnist whose iconic memoir, *Wild*, was a #1 *New York Times* bestseller. Ariel Levy is the author of the *New York Times*-bestselling memoir *The Rules Do Not Apply*. Danzy Senna is the author of the critically acclaimed novels *Caucasia* and *New People*, a *New York Times* Notable Book of 2017.

Love from the Belly of Terror: A Copper Canyon Press Reading

Oregon Ballroom 201-202, Oregon Convention Center, Level 2

Friday, March 29, 8:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Participants: Ellen Bass, Jericho Brown, Deborah Landau, Javier Zamora

Copper Canyon Press presents a reading from four dynamic poets and who are leaders in the literary community: Ellen Bass, Jericho Brown, Deborah Landau, and Javier Zamora. Brown's *The Tradition* and Landau's *Soft Targets* are new collections debuting at AWP: See their first public readings from these hot-off-the-press books. Zamora's *Unaccompanied* continues to make (and critique) headlines, and Bass remains one of the most beloved poets writing today.

Jesmyn Ward and Mitchell S. Jackson, Sponsored by Literary Arts and Lyceum Agency

Portland Ballroom 253-254, Oregon Convention Center, Level 2

Friday, March 29, 8:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Participants: Jesmyn Ward, Mitchell S. Jackson

Jesmyn Ward is the author of the National Book Award-winning novels *Sing, Unburied, Sing* and *Salvage the Bones* and the National Book Critics Circle Award-winning memoir *Men We Reaped*. Ward is in conversation with Mitchell S. Jackson, Whiting Award-winner, native Portlander, and author of the novel *The Residue Years* and nonfiction book *Survival Math* (forthcoming 2019).

When Writing Becomes a Movement: Indigenous Women Storytelling Meets Social Justice

Oregon Ballroom 201-202, Oregon Convention Center, Level 2

Saturday, March 30, 12noon – 1:15 p.m.

Participants: Debra Magpie Earling, Jennifer Foerster, Eden Robinson

Debra Magpie Earling, Jennifer Foerster, and Eden Robinson each read from their own work, followed by a discussion on how storytelling reflects and can sometimes drive action in native communities by becoming a means of expressing and unearthing histories and traumas buried, erased, or simply not listened to.

Coloring Outside the Gender Binary: How Transgender Poets are Redefining What It Means to Be Human, Sponsored by AWP

Oregon Ballroom 201-202, Oregon Convention Center, Level 2

Saturday, March 30, 1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Participants: Ching-In Chen, Joy Ladin, Cameron Awkward-Rich, Max Wolf Valerio

Until very recently, the English language, and most of the poetry written in it, has been based on the gender binary assumption that all human beings are always, either, and only male or female, as determined by the sex of their bodies at birth. We see this assumption at work in the traditional system of gendered pronouns and honorifics, in words for our most intimate roles and relationships, which designate parents as mothers or fathers, children as daughters or sons, and so on, and in subtler habits that reflect and reinforce the idea that human beings are born and remain simply male or female.

Jack Jones Literary Arts Presents Natalie Diaz and Nikky Finney

Oregon Ballroom 201-202, Oregon Convention Center, Level 2

Saturday, March 30, 3:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

Participants: Natalie Diaz, Nikky Finney

Arts for Justice: Join Natalie Diaz and Nikky Finney as they discuss mass incarceration, civil rights, and poetics.

A Reading by Toi Derricotte, Adrian Matejka, and Mai Der Vang, Sponsored by the Academy of American Poets

Oregon Ballroom 201-202, Oregon Convention Center, Level 2

Saturday, March 30, 8:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Participants: Toi Derricotte, Adrian Matejka, Mai Der Vang

Join the Academy of American Poets for an evening reading by former Academy of American Poets Chancellor Toi Derricotte, Indiana Poet Laureate Adrian Matejka, and 2016 Walt Whitman Award winner Mai Der Vang. Executive Director Jennifer Benka will introduce the event.

Founded in 1934, the Academy of American Poets is the nation's largest membership-based organization promoting contemporary poets and poetry.