

NEWS RELEASE

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND LETTERS
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AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND LETTERS ANNOUNCES 2007 LITERATURE AWARD WINNERS

New York, March 27, 2007 — The American Academy of Arts and Letters announced today the names of 17 writers who will receive its 2007 awards in literature. The awards will be presented in New York in May at the Academy's annual Ceremonial. The literature prizes, totaling nearly \$140,000, honor both established and emerging writers of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. The Academy's 250 members nominate candidates, and a rotating committee of writers selects winners. This year's committee members were A. R. Gurney, Edward Hoagland, Lorrie Moore, Charles Simic, Jane Smiley, and Edmund White.

Academy Awards in Literature

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

JOAN ACOCELLA · CHARLES D'AMBROSIO · BARBARA EHRENREICH
DAVID MARKSON · ROBERT MORGAN · JOAN SILBER
WILLIAM T. VOLLMANN · DEAN YOUNG

Benjamin H. Danks Award

ADAM RAPP

The \$20,000 Benjamin H. Danks Award, to a promising young playwright.

E.M. Forster Award

JEZ BUTTERWORTH

\$15,000 to a young writer from the United Kingdom or Ireland for a stay in the United States. Award jury: Margaret Drabble, Alison Lurie, J. D. McClatchy.

Sue Kaufman Prize for First Fiction

TONY D'SOUZA

\$5,000 for the best work of first fiction (novel or short stories) published in 2006.

for *Whiteman*

Award of Merit for the Short Story

\$10,000 and a medal to an outstanding short story writer.

CHARLES BAXTER

Addison M. Metcalf

\$10,000 to a young writer of great promise.

SUJI KWOCK KIM

Rome Fellowships in Literature

A one-year residency (2007-2008) at the American Academy in Rome.

JUNOT DIAZ

SARAH MANGUSO

Richard and Hinda Rosenthal Foundation Award

\$5,000 to a young novelist of considerable literary talent for a work published in 2006.

DANA SPIOTTA
for *Eat the Document*

Harold D. Vursell Memorial Award

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

AMY HEMPEL

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND LETTERS

The Academy was founded in 1898 to "foster, assist, and sustain an interest in literature, music, and the fine arts." Each year, the Academy honors over 50 artists, architects, writers, and composers (who are not members) with cash awards. The amount of a prize ranges from \$5,000 to \$75,000. Other activities of the Academy are exhibitions of art, architecture, and manuscripts; publications on the Academy's history and events; and readings and performances of new musicals. The American Academy of Arts and Letters is located in two landmark buildings, designed by McKim, Mead & White and by Cass Gilbert, on Audubon Terrace at 155th Street and Broadway.