

American Academy of Arts and Letters
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THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND LETTERS ANNOUNCES
2008 LITERATURE AWARD WINNERS

New York, March 12, 2008 — The American Academy of Arts and Letters announced today the names of 19 writers who will receive its 2008 awards in literature. The awards will be presented in New York in May at the Academy's annual Ceremonial. The literature prizes, over \$200,000, 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 Mary Gordon, Allan Gurganus, A. R. Gurney, Edward Hoagland, Charles Simic, Jane Smiley, Rosanna Warren, 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 \$7500 each will be presented to

DAN CHIASSON · BRIAN DOYLE · RIKKI DUCORNET · WILL ENO
EDITH GROSSMAN · FANNY HOWE · RICHARD NELSON · MONA SIMPSON

Michael Braude Award for Light Verse

\$5000 for work, in English, from any country.

CHRISTOPHER REID

Benjamin H. Danks Award

\$20,000 to a promising young writer of fiction, nonfiction, or poetry.

A. E. STALLINGS

E.M. Forster Award

\$20,000 to a young writer from the United Kingdom or Ireland for a stay in the United States.

Award jury: Alison Lurie, J. D. McClatchy, Ian McEwan

JOHN LANCHESTER

Sue Kaufman Prize for First Fiction

\$5000 for the best work of first fiction (novel or short stories) published in 2007.

FRANCES HWANG

for *Transparency*

Katherine Anne Porter Award

\$20,000 given biennially to a prose writer whose achievements and dedication to the literary profession have been demonstrated, and for whom the award will provide a gift of time and some relief from secular obligations.

JOHN EDGAR WIDEMAN

Arthur Rense Poetry Prize

HAYDEN CARRUTH

\$20,000 given triennially to an exceptional poet who may not have received due recognition over the course of a long career.

Rome Fellowships in Literature

BRAD KESSLER

A one-year residency (2008-2009) at the American Academy in Rome.

DANA SPIOTTA

Rosenthal Family Foundation Award

RICHARD LANGE

\$5000 to a young novelist of considerable literary talent for a work published in 2007.

for *Dead Boys: Stories*

Harold D. Vursell Memorial Award

MAXINE SWANN

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

Morton Dauwen Zabel Award

BEN MARCUS

\$10,000 to a fiction writer with progressive, original, and experimental tendencies.

The American Academy of Arts and Letters was established in 1898 to “foster, assist, and sustain an interest in literature, music, and the fine arts.” Election to the Academy is considered the highest formal recognition of artistic merit in this country. Founding members include William Merritt Chase, Kenyon Cox, Daniel Chester French, Childe Hassam, Henry James, Theodore Roosevelt, Elihu Vedder, and Woodrow Wilson. The Academy is currently comprised of 250 of America’s leading voices in the fields of Art, Architecture, Literature, and Music. The Academy presents exhibitions of art, architecture, and manuscripts; and readings and performances of new musicals throughout the year, and 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.