

BENNINGTON COLLEGE PRESENTS

# WRITERS READING

(BENNINGTON WRITING SEMINARS FACULTY AND GUESTS READING SERIES)

## January 7–15, 2010

**Doug Bauer**  
**Wyatt Mason**

**Thursday, January 7**  
7:00 pm

**Doug Bauer** is author of the novels *The Book of Famous Iowans*, *The Very Air*, and *Dexterity*, and the nonfiction books *Prairie City*, *Iowa* and *The Stuff of Fiction: Advice on Craft*. He’s edited the anthologies *Prime Times: Writers on Their Favorite TV Shows* and *Death by Pad Thai and Other Unforgettable Meals*. Mr. Bauer has received fellowships in fiction from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Massachusetts Council on the Arts.

**Wyatt Mason** is a contributing editor of *Harper’s Magazine* and has written for *The New Yorker*, *The New Republic*, *The London Review of Books*, and *The New York Times Magazine*, among others. In 2005, Mr. Mason received the Nona Balakian Citation for Excellence in Reviewing from the National Book Critics Circle and, in 2006, his reviews and criticism for *Harper’s Magazine* earned him a National Magazine Award.

**Sheila Kohler**  
**Rick Moody**

**Friday, January 8**  
7:00 pm

**Sheila Kohler’s** latest book is *Becoming Jane Eyre*, a novel based on the life of the Brontë sisters. Her previous book is the historical novel *Bluebird, or the Invention of Happiness*. Ms. Kohler is the author of five other novels and three books of short stories. She has received the O. Henry Award, the Open Voice Prize, the Smart Family Foundation Prize, and the Willa Cather Prize.

**Rick Moody** is the author of four novels, *Garden State*, *The Ice Storm*, *Purple America*, and *The Diviners*; three collections of stories, *The Ring of Brightest Angels Around Heaven*, *Demonology*, and *Right Livelihoods*; and a memoir, *The Black Veil*. With Darcey Steinke, he edited *Joyful Noise: The New Testament Revisited*. His forthcoming novel is *The Four Fingers of Death*, to be published by Little, Brown and Company in 2010.

**Martha Cooley**  
**Mark Wunderlich**

**Saturday, January 9**  
7:00 pm

**Martha Cooley’s** first novel, *The Archivist*, was published in 1998 and has appeared in translation in eleven languages. Her second novel, *Thirty-Three Swoons*, was published in the U.S. and Italy in 2005 and is now in paperback. Ms. Cooley’s short fiction and nonfiction have appeared in *A Public Space*, *AGNI*, *Washington Square*, and elsewhere.

**Mark Wunderlich’s** first volume of poetry, *The Anchorage*, was published in 1999 and received the Lambda Literary Award. His second volume, *Voluntary Servitude*, was published in 2004. He is the recipient of numerous fellowships and his work has appeared in *The Paris Review*, *The Yale Review*, *Slate*, *Poetry*, and *Ploughshares*, among others. His poems have been widely anthologized.

**Sven Birkerts**  
**Rachel Pastan**

**Sunday, January 10**  
7:00 pm

**Sven Birkerts** has been editor of *AGNI* since July 2002. His most recent books are *Art of Time in Memoir: Then, Again* and *Reading Life: Books for the Ages*. He has edited *Tolstoy’s Dictaphone: Technology and the Muse*, *Writing Well* (with Donald Hall), and *Literature: The Evolving Canon*. Mr. Birkerts has reviewed regularly for *The New York Times Book Review*, *The New Republic*, *Esquire*, *The Washington Post*, *The Atlantic*, and other publications. He is the director of the Bennington Writing Seminars.

**Rachel Pastan** is the author of two novels, *Lady of the Snakes* and *This Side of Married*. Her short fiction has been published in *The Georgia Review*, *The Threepenny Review*, and many other places, and her nonfiction has appeared in *The Washington Post Book World*, *The New York Times Book Review*, and elsewhere. She has been a fellow at the Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference and won fellowships from the Wisconsin Arts Board and the Delaware Council on the Arts.

**Vivian Gornick**  
**Major Jackson**

**Monday, January 11**  
7:00 pm

**Vivian Gornick** writes essays, memoirs, and literary criticism. She is the author of eight books, among them *Fierce Attachments* (a memoir), *Approaching Eye Level* (personal essays), and *The End of the Novel of Love* (critical essays). Ms. Gornick is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, and her work has been twice nominated for the National Book Critics Circle Award. She has taught non-fiction writing in MFA programs all over the country.

**Major Jackson’s** books of poems are *Hoops* and *Leaving Saturn*. He has published poems and essays in *American Poetry Review*, *Callaloo*, *The New Yorker*, *Poetry*, and elsewhere. *Hoops* was a finalist for a NAACP Image Award in the category of Outstanding Literary Work in Poetry, and *Leaving Saturn* was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award in Poetry. Mr. Jackson’s third volume of poetry, *Holding Company*, is forthcoming.

**Phillip Lopate**  
**Tom Piazza**

**Wednesday, January 13**  
7:00 pm

**Phillip Lopate’s** two most recent books are *Two Marriages* and *Notes on Sontag*. His books of nonfiction include *Waterfront: A Walk Around Manhattan*; *Getting Personal: Selected Writings*; *Totally, Tenderly, Tragically*; *Portrait of My Body*; *Against Joie de Vivre*; *Bachelorhood: Tales of the Metropolis*; and *Being with Children*. Mr. Lopate’s novels are *The Rug Merchant* and *Confessions of Summer*, and his books of poems are *The Daily Round* and *The Eyes Don’t Always Want to Stay Open*.

**Tom Piazza** is author of the novels *City Of Refuge* and *My Cold War*, which won the Faulkner Society Award for the Novel. His other books include the short-story collection *Blues and Trouble*, which won the James Michener Award for Fiction, and the book-length post-Katrina essay *Why New Orleans Matters*. A well-known writer on American music, he won a 2004 Grammy Award for his album notes to *Martin Scorsese Presents the Blues: A Musical Journey*.

**Alice Mattison**  
**Carl Phillips**

**Thursday, January 14**  
7:30 pm (note later start time)

**Alice Mattison’s** collection of connected stories, *In Case We’re Separated*, was a *New York Times* Notable Book and won the Connecticut Book Award for Fiction. Her novels include, *Nothing Is Quite Forgotten in Brooklyn*, *The Wedding of the Two-Headed Woman*, *The Book Borrower* (a *Times* Notable Book), *Hilda and Pearl*, and *Field of Stars*. She is the author of three earlier collections of stories, including *Men Giving Money*, *Women Yelling* (also a *Times* Notable Book), and a collection of poems, *Animals*.

**Carl Phillips** is the author of ten books of poems, most recently, *Speak Low*. He has written a book of prose, *Coin of the Realm: Essays on the Life and Art of Poetry*, and translated Sophocles’s *Philoctetes*. His awards and honors include the Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award, the Thom Gunn Award for Gay Poetry, the Theodore Roethke Memorial Poetry Prize, and fellowships and prizes from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the Library of Congress, the Guggenheim Foundation, and the Academy of American Poets, to which he was named a Chancellor in 2007.

**David Gates**  
**Askold Melnyczuk**

**Friday, January 15**  
7:00 pm

**David Gates** is author of the novels *Jernigan* and *Preston Falls*, and the collection of stories *The Wonders of the Invisible World*. Mr. Gates’s fiction, articles, and reviews have been published in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times Book Review*, *Newsweek*, *Esquire*, *Rolling Stone*, *Tin House*, *Bomb*, *Salon.com*, *The Oxford American*, *The Journal of Country Music*, and elsewhere. He is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, and his books have been finalists for the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Award.

**Askold Melnyczuk’s** latest novel, *The House of Widows*, was an Editor’s Choice selection on the American Library Association’s Booklist in 2008. His second novel, *Ambassador of the Dead*, was a *Los Angeles Times* Best Book for 2002; his first, *What is Told*, was a *New York Times* Notable Book. He received a three-year fellowship in fiction from the Lila Wallace Foundation, and numerous grants from the National Endowment for the Arts for his work as editor of *AGNI*, which he founded in 1972.

**All readings will be held in Tishman Lecture Hall at Bennington College**  
**For more information, please contact 802-440-4452 or [writing@bennington.edu](mailto:writing@bennington.edu)**

Location on campus and event dates and times are subject to change • These events are FREE and open to the public • [www.bennington.edu](http://www.bennington.edu)