

BENNINGTON COLLEGE PRESENTS

WRITERS READING

(BENNINGTON WRITING SEMINARS FACULTY AND GUESTS READING SERIES)

January 9–17, 2014

SVEN BIRKERTS
JILL MCCORKLE

Thursday, January 9
7:00 pm

Sven Birkerts's most recent books are *The Other Walk* and *Art of Time in Memoir: Then, Again*. He has received grants from the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Foundation and the Guggenheim Foundation. He was winner of the Citation for Excellence in Reviewing from the National Book Critics Circle. Birkerts has reviewed regularly for *The New York Times Book Review*, *The New Republic*, *Esquire*, *The Washington Post*, *The Atlantic*, *Mirabella*, *Parnassus*, *The Yale Review*, and other publications.

Jill McCorkle is the author of ten books—four story collections and six novels—five of which have been selected as *New York Times* Notable Books. Her latest novel, *Life After Life*. Two of the stories in *Going Away Shoes*, were included in the Best American Short Stories Series. She is the winner of the New England Book Award, the John Dos Passos Prize for Excellence in Literature, and the North Carolina Award for Literature.

NATHALIE HANDAL
ALICE MATTISON

Friday, January 10
7:00 pm

Nathalie Handal is the author of numerous books, most recently *Poet in Andalucía*, *Love and Strange Horses*, and the landmark W.W. Norton anthology *Language for a New Century: Contemporary Poetry from the Middle East, Asia & Beyond*. Her work has appeared in numerous publications including *Vanity Fair*, *Guernica Magazine*, the *Guardian*, and the *Nation*. Handal is a Lannan Foundation Fellow, winner of the Alejo Zuloaga Order in Literature 2011, and, among other honors, an Honored Finalist for the Gift of Freedom Award.

Alice Mattison's new novel, *When We Argued All Night*, was a *New York Times Book Review* Editor's Choice. Her story collection, *In Case We're Separated*, won the Connecticut Book Award for Fiction. Mattison's earlier novels include *Nothing Is Quite Forgotten in Brooklyn*, *The Wedding of the Two-Headed Woman*, *The Book Borrower*, and *Hilda and Pearl*. She is the author of three earlier story collections, and a collection of poems, *Animals*. Her work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *Ploughshares*, *The Threepenny Review* and elsewhere, and has been reprinted in *The Pushcart Prize*, *Best American Short Stories*, and *PEN/O. Henry Prize Stories*.

DOUGLAS BAUER
JOAN WICKERSHAM

Saturday, January 11
7:00 pm

Douglas Bauer's novels are *The Book of Famous Iowans*, *The Very Air*, and *Dexterity*. He has also published two works of non-fiction, *Prairie City*, *Iowa* and *The Stuff of Fiction*. He's edited the anthologies, *Prime Times: Writers on Television* and *Death by Pad Thai and Other Unforgettable Meals*. He has received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts. His book of connected personal essays, *What Happens Next? Matters of Life and Death*, was published in September 2013.

Joan Wickersham's most recent book, *The News from Spain: Seven Variations on a Love Story* was named one of 2012's best fiction picks by National Public Radio, *Kirkus Reviews* and *The San Francisco Chronicle*. Her memoir *The Suicide Index: Putting My Father's Death in Order* was a 2008 National Book Award Finalist. Her short fiction and essays have appeared in *The Best American Short Stories*, *The Best American Nonrequired Reading*, and many other publications. Wickersham writes a regular op-ed column for *The Boston*. She has been awarded grants by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

BENJAMIN ANASTAS
WESLEY BROWN

Sunday, January 12
7:00 pm

Benjamin Anastas is the author of the novels *An Underachiever's Diary*, which has been called "the funniest, most underappreciated novel of the 90s," and *The Faithful Narrative of a Pastor's Disappearance*, which was a *New York Times* Notable Book. His memoir *Too Good To Be True*. Other work has appeared in *Harper's*, *The New York Times Magazine*, the *Paris Review*, *Tin House*, *GQ*, the *Yale Review*, *Bookforum*, and *The Best American Essays 2012*.

Wesley Brown is the author of three published novels, *Tragic Magic*, *Darktown Strutters*, *Push Comes to Shove* and three produced plays, *Boogie Woogie and Booker T*, *Life During Wartime*, *A Prophet Among Them*. He is the co-editor of the multicultural anthologies, *Imagining America* (fiction) and *Visions of America* (non-fiction) and editor of the *Teachers & Writers Guide to Frederick Douglass*. He also wrote the narration for a segment of the PBS documentary, *W.E.B. Dubois: A Biography in Four Voices*.

THOMAS SAYERS ELLIS
ASKOLD MELNYCZUK

Monday, January 13
7:00 pm

Thomas Sayers Ellis is the author of *Skin, Inc.: Identity Repair Poem*, and his first collection *The Maverick Room*, was awarded the John C. Zacharis First Book Award. His poems have appeared in numerous publications, including *The Open Door*, *Callaloo*, *Tin House*, *Grand Street*, *Poetry*, *The Nation* and *Best American Poetry*. He is the recipient of a Whiting Writer's Award and has been awarded residencies at the MacDowell Colony, the Fine Arts Work Center, and Yaddo. His photographs and photo essays have appeared in *Poetry*, *The Massachusetts Review*, *Jubilat* and *Transition*.

Askold Melnyczuk has received a Lila Wallace Reader's Digest Grant in Fiction and a McGinnis Prize in Fiction. His first novel was a *New York Times* Notable, his second was an *LA Times Best Books of the Year* selection. He has received the Magid Prize from PEN for his work as founding editor of *Agni* and honored by AWP with the George Garret Award. His work has also appeared in *Glimmer Train*, *The Antioch Review*, *The Massachusetts Review*, *The Denver Quarterly*, *The Writer's Chronicle*, *The Nation*, *The New York Times*, *Ploughshares*, *The Boston Globe*, and *Grand Street*.

MAJOR JACKSON
RACHEL PASTAN

Wednesday, January 15
7:00 pm

Major Jackson is the author of three collections of poetry: *Holding Company*, *Hoops*, and *Leaving Saturn*. He has published poems and essays in *AGNI*, *American Poetry Review*, *Callaloo*, *The New Yorker*, *Poetry*, *Tin House*, and elsewhere. *Leaving Saturn* was awarded the Cave Canem Poetry Prize for a first book of poems and was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award. Jackson is a recipient of a Pushcart Prize, a Whiting Writers' Award and has been honored by the Pew Fellowship in the Arts and the Witter Bynner Foundation.

Rachel Pastan is the author of three novels: *Alena*, *Lady of the Snakes*, and *This Side of Married*. Her short fiction has been published in *The Georgia Review*, *The Threepenny Review*, *Mademoiselle*, *Prairie Schooner*, and elsewhere. A graduate of Harvard College and the Iowa Writers' Workshop, Rachel is currently Editor-at-Large at the Institute of Contemporary Art in Philadelphia, where she writes the blog *Miranda*.

JO ANN BEARD
DAVID GATES

Thursday, January 16
7:30 pm (note later start time)

Jo Ann Beard has written *The Boys of My Youth*, a collection of autobiographical essays, and *In Zanesville*, a novel, as well as other works of fiction and nonfiction that have appeared in various journals, magazines, and anthologies. She is a Guggenheim Fellow and a recipient of the Whiting Writers' Award.

David Gates is the author of the novels *Jernigan* and *Preston Falls*, and a collection of stories, *The Wonders of the Visible World*. Mr. Gates's fiction, articles, and reviews have been published in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times Book Review*, *Esquire*, *Rolling Stone*, *Tin House*, *Bomb*, *Salon.com*, *The Oxford American*, *The Journal of Country Music*, and frequently in *Newsweek*, where he was a longtime writer and editor. He's received a Guggenheim fellowship, and his books have been finalists for the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Critics' Circle Award.

MARTHA COOLEY
MARK WUNDERLICH

Friday, January 17
7:00 pm

Martha Cooley's first novel, *The Archivist*, was a national bestseller and has appeared in translation in eleven languages. Her second novel, *Thirty-Three Swoons*, was published in the U.S. and Italy. Ms. Cooley's short fiction, nonfiction, and translations have appeared in *A Public Space*, *AGNI*, *The Common*, *PEN America*, *Washington Square*, and elsewhere.

Mark Wunderlich is the author of *The Anchorage*, which received the Lambda Literary Award, *Voluntary Servitude*, and *The Earth Avails*, forthcoming from Graywolf. He has received fellowships from the NEA, the Wallace Stegner Fellowship Program at Stanford, and the Amy Lowell Trust. His poems, interviews, reviews and translations have appeared in journals such as *Slate*, *The Paris Review*, *Poetry*, *Yale Review*, *Fence* and *Tin House*.

All readings will be held in Tishman Auditorium at Bennington College

For more information, please contact 802-440-4452 or 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