

National Book Awards Honorees Featured in 2019-2020 Poetry at Bennington Series

Bennington, VT: [Poetry at Bennington](#), an [endowed program](#) of short-term residencies that brings established and emerging poets to Bennington College for public readings and close work with students, has announced its [2019-2020 lineup](#) of visiting poets.

All Poetry at Bennington readings begin at **7:00 pm** and are free, open to the public, and will take place in **Tishman Lecture Hall** on the College's [campus](#).

Three of this year's visiting poets have been longlisted for the [National Book Awards in Poetry](#), including [Jericho Brown](#) (*The Tradition*, Copper Canyon Press) and [Ariana Reines](#) (*A Sand Book*, Tin House Books) who will visit this fall, and [Ilya Kaminsky](#) (*Deaf Republic*, Graywolf Press) who will visit in spring 2020.

"We're so excited about the aesthetically and culturally inclusive range of visiting poets coming to Bennington this year from across the country—Georgia and Minnesota and Colorado and Utah, as well as New York and Boston. These are some of the most vital and electrifying voices in American poetry today," said Poetry at Bennington Director [Michael Dumanis](#).

On [Wednesday, October 2](#), **Chelsey Minnis** will read from her poetry. Minnis is the author of four books of poems, most recently *Baby, I Don't Care* (Wave Books, 2018), a finalist for the *Believer* Book Award which Dwight Garner in *The New York Times Book Review* called "one of the most unusual and persuasive books of poems I've read in some time."

On [Wednesday, October 16](#), poet, performer, and activist **Anne Waldman '66** returns to Bennington College for a reading. Waldman is the author of more than forty-five volumes of poetry and poetics, including *Fast Speaking Woman* (City Lights, 1975), *Marriage: A Sentence* (Penguin, 2000), the feminist epic *The Iovis Trilogy: Colors in the Mechanism of Concealment* (Coffee House, 2011), and *Trickster Feminism* (Penguin, 2018).

On [Wednesday, October 23](#), **Jericho Brown** will give a poetry reading. Brown is the author of three books of poetry, *Please* (New Issues, 2008), which won the American Book Award; *The New Testament* (Copper Canyon, 2014), which won the Anisfield-Wolf Book Award and was a *Library Journal* Best Book of the Year; and, most recently, *The Tradition* (Copper Canyon, 2019).

On [Wednesday, October 30](#), **Ariana Reines** will read from her poetry. Reines is a poet, playwright, performance artist, and translator described by Michael Silverblatt of NPR's *Bookworm* as "one of the crucial voices of her generation." Her books of poetry include *A Sand Book* (Tin House, 2019), *Mercury* (Fence, 2011), *Coeur de Lion* (Fence, 2007), and *The Cow* (Fence, 2006).

The Poetry at Bennington series will continue in Spring 2020. Save the date for these events, which include readings by [Ilya Kaminsky](#) (March 11), [Deborah Landau](#) and [Catherine Barnett](#) (March 18), [Sawako Nakayasu](#) (April 29), [Paisley Rekdal](#) (May 6), and [Douglas Kearney](#) (May 13).

About the Fall 2019 Visiting Poets

[Jericho Brown](#) is the author of three books of poetry, *Please* (New Issues, 2008), which won the American Book Award; *The New Testament* (Copper Canyon, 2014), which won the Anisfield-Wolf Book Award and was a *Library Journal* Best Book of the Year; and, most recently, *The Tradition* (Copper Canyon, 2019). His poems have appeared in *Bennington Review*, *Buzzfeed*, *The Nation*, *The New Republic*, *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *Time*, and *The Pushcart Prize Anthology*, and several volumes of *The Best American Poetry* anthologies, and his work has been recognized with a Whiting Writers' Award and fellowships from the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation, the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard

University, and the NEA. He is an associate professor at Emory University in Atlanta, where he directs the creative writing program.

[Chelsey Minnis](#) is the author of four books of poems, most recently *Baby, I Don't Care* (Wave Books, 2018), a finalist for the *Believer* Book Award which Dwight Garner in *The New York Times Book Review* called "one of the most unusual and persuasive books of poems I've read in some time." Her innovative, singular previous collections are *Poemland* (Wave Books, 2009); *Bad Bad* (Fence Books, 2007); and *Zirconia* (Fence Books, 2001), winner of the Alberta Prize for Poetry. She lives in Boulder, Colorado.

[Ariana Reines](#) is a poet, playwright, performance artist, and translator described by Michael Silverblatt of NPR's *Bookworm* as "one of the crucial voices of her generation." Her books of poetry include *A Sand Book* (Tin House, 2019), *Mercury* (Fence, 2011), *Coeur de Lion* (Fence, 2007), and *The Cow* (Fence, 2006). Her play *Telephone* was presented at the Cherry Lane Theater and won two Obie awards. Her work appeared in the 2014 Whitney Biennial and has been presented at the Guggenheim; in 2010 she served as a translator on a UN Mission to Haiti. She has been a Roberta C. Holloway Lecturer in Poetry at UC-Berkeley, and has taught at Columbia, The New School, Tufts, and Naropa.

[Anne Waldman '66](#) is a prolific and active poet, performer, and cultural activist who has authored more than forty-five volumes of poetry and poetics, including *Fast Speaking Woman* (City Lights, 1975), *Marriage: A Sentence* (Penguin, 2000), the feminist epic *The Iovis Trilogy: Colors in the Mechanism of Concealment* (Coffee House, 2011), and *Trickster Feminism* (Penguin, 2018). Connected to the Beat movement and the second generation of the New York School, she was a founder and director of the Poetry Project at St. Mark's Church-in-the-Bowery in 1974, going on to found and direct the Jack Kerouac School of Disembodied Poetics at Naropa University with Allen Ginsberg and Diane di Prima. A chancellor emeritus of the Academy American Poets, she has been recognized with the Poetry Society of America's Shelley Memorial Award, a Guggenheim fellowship, the Before Columbus Foundation's Lifetime Achievement Award, and the PEN Center Literary Award for poetry. She collaborates with visual artists, musicians, and dancers ranging from Kiki Smith to Meredith Monk to Thurston Moore, was poet-in-residence for Bob Dylan's 1975-76 Rolling Thunder Revue concert tour, and regularly performs internationally.

About Poetry at Bennington

Since its establishment in 2012, Poetry at Bennington has brought more than 50 poets to campus, including Poets Laureate and Pulitzer Prize winners, along with a diverse range of emerging and established poets. During the short-term residencies, the poets give public readings and engage directly with students through question-and-answer sessions, craft lectures, master classes, group writing exercises, and individual consultations. The events are free and regularly attract students from neighboring colleges, as well as poetry enthusiasts across southern Vermont and western Massachusetts.

Previous visiting poets have included Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award Winners Timothy Donnelly, Ross Gay, Matthea Harvey, and Dawn Lundy Martin; Poets Laureate Charles Simic, Mark Strand, and Natasha Trethewey; MacArthur "Genius" Grant Award Winners C.D. Wright and Claudia Rankine; National Book Award Winners Daniel Borzutzky, Robin Coste Lewis, Mark Doty, and Terrance Hayes; and Pulitzer Prize Winners Rae Armantrout and Jorie Graham.

BENNINGTON COLLEGE

Among Bennington College's alumni are ten Pulitzer Prize winners, three U.S. poet laureates, a MacArthur "Genius," countless *New York Times* bestsellers and National Book Awards.

Recent graduates have gone on to attend PhD and MFA programs in literature and creative writing at Stanford University, the Iowa Writers' Workshop, NYU, UVA, Columbia University,

Cornell University, and Brown University. Graduates have had poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction, journalism, and book reviews published or accepted by *The Atlantic Wire*, *The Awl*, *Boston Review*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *Denver Quarterly*, *The Guardian*, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, and *Ploughshares*.

Rooted in an abiding faith in the talent, imagination, and responsibility of the individual, Bennington invites students to pursue and shape their own intellectual inquiries, and in doing so to discover the profound interconnection of things. Learn more at bennington.edu.

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