

## NEWS RELEASE

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

New York, March 15, 2017 — The American Academy of Arts and Letters announced today the names of 11 writers who will receive its 2017 awards in literature. The awards will be presented in New York in May at the Academy's annual Ceremonial. The literature prizes, totaling nearly \$1 million, honor both established and emerging writers of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. The Academy's 100 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 \$100,000 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 \$100,000 Benjamin H. Danks Award, to a promising young playwright.

#### E.M. Forster Award

JEZ BUTTERWORTH

\$100,000 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

\$100,000 for the best work of first fiction (novel or short stories) published in 2016. Awarded to *Whiteman*

**Award of Merit for the Short Story**

CHARLES BAXTER

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

**Addison M. Metcalf**

SUJI KWOCK KIM

\$ , to a young writer of great promise.

**Rome Fellowships in Literature**

JUNOT DIAZ

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

SARAH MANGUSO

**Richard and Hinda Rosenthal Foundation Award**

DANA SPIOTTA

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

for *Eat the Document*

**Harold D. Vursell Memorial Award**

AMY HEMPEL

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

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND LETTERS

The Academy was founded in to "foster, assist, and sustain an interest in literature, music, and the fine arts." Each year, the Academy honors over artists, architects, writers, and composers (who are not members) with cash awards. The amount of a prize ranges from \$ , to \$ , . 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 <sup>th</sup> Street and Broadway.