

# American Academy of Arts and Letters

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND LETTERS ANNOUNCES 2015 LITERATURE AWARD WINNERS

New York, March 12, 2015 – The American Academy of Arts and Letters announced today the names of 18 writers who will receive its 2015 awards in literature. The awards will be presented in New York in May at the Academy’s annual Ceremonial. The literature prizes, totaling \$250,000, 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 John Guare, Philip Levine, Mark Strand, Joy Williams, and Charles Wright.

#### Arts and Letters Awards in Literature

Eight Arts and Letters Awards in Literature honor exceptional accomplishment in any genre. This year, the awards of \$10,000 each will be presented to

**ANNIE BAKER · ANN GOLDSTEIN · GLENN GREENWALD  
LIN-MANUEL MIRANDA · IBRAHIM MUHAWI · VIJAY SESHADRI  
JEFFREY SKINNER · NAOMI WALLACE**

#### 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: Salman Rushdie, Colm Tóibín.

**ADAM THIRWELL**

#### Sue Kaufman Prize for First Fiction

\$5000 for the best work of first fiction (novel or short stories) published in 2014.

**MICHAEL CARROLL**  
for *Little Reef and Other Stories*

#### Award of Merit Medal

and \$25,000 to an outstanding novelist.

**CORMAC MCCARTHY**

#### Addison M. Metcalf Award

of \$10,000 to a young writer of fiction, nonfiction, drama or poetry.

**AMY ROWLAND**

#### American Academy in Rome Fellowship in Literature

**John Guare Writer’s Fund Rome Prize**

**Joseph Brodsky Rome Prize**

A one–year (2015-2016) residency at the American Academy in Rome.

**WILL BOAST  
LYSLEY TENORIO**

**Rosenthal Family Foundation Award**

of \$10,000 to a young writer of considerable literary talent for a work published in 2014.

**TIPHANIE YANIQUE**  
for *Land of Love and Drowning*

**John Updike Award**

of \$20,000 is given biennially to a writer in mid-career whose work has demonstrated consistent excellence.

**ZACHARY LAZAR**

**Harold D. Vursell Memorial Award**

of \$20,000 to a writer whose work merits recognition for the quality of its prose style.

**JOHN LAHR**

**E. B. White Award**

of \$10,000 to a writer for achievement in children's literature.

**CHRISTOPHER PAUL CURTIS**

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. It 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.