



National Book Foundation

RELEASE SEPTEMBER 16, 2014
8:30 a.m. EDT

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2014 NATIONAL BOOK AWARDS LONGLIST FOR POETRY

The ten contenders for the National Book Award for Poetry

New York, NY (September 16, 2014) – The National Book Foundation announces the Longlist for the 2014 National Book Award for Poetry. Finalists will be revealed on October 15.

The Longlisted books range in style and content: from a single elegiac narrative poem to a provocative examination of race relations told in an experimental fusion of lyric, prose poems, and image.

Among the poets on this year's Longlist are two former National Book Award Finalists, two former Poets Laureate of the United States, a Pulitzer Prize winner, two Bollingen recipients, a *Los Angeles Times* Book Award winner, and a Whiting Writers' Award winner.

2014 Longlist for Poetry:

Linda Bierds, *Roget's Illusion*
G. P. Putnam's Sons/ Penguin Group (USA)

Brian Blanchfield, *A Several World*
Nightboat Books

Louise Glück, *Faithful and Virtuous Night*
Farrar, Straus and Giroux

Edward Hirsch, *Gabriel: A Poem*
Alfred A. Knopf/ Random House

Fanny Howe, *Second Childhood*
Graywolf Press

Maureen N. McLane, *This Blue*
Farrar, Straus and Giroux

Fred Moten, *The Feel Trio*
Letter Machine Editions

Claudia Rankine, *Citizen: An American Lyric*
Graywolf Press

Spencer Reece, *The Road to Emmaus*
Farrar, Straus and Giroux

Mark Strand, *Collected Poems*
Alfred A. Knopf/ Random House

Author biographies:

Linda Bierds is the author of *Flights of the Harvest-Mare*; *The Stillness, the Dancing*; *Heart and Perimeter*; *The Ghost Trio*; *The Profile Makers*; *The Seconds*; and *First Hand*. A Judge for the 2007 National Book Award for Poetry, she has received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Ingram Merrill Foundation, the Artist Trust Foundation of Washington, and the Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. In 1998, she was awarded a John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Fellowship. Bierds is the Byron W. and Alice L. Lockwood Professor in the Humanities at the University of Washington.

Brian Blanchfield is the author of *Not Even Then*; the chapbook, *The History of Ideas, 1973-2012*; and the forthcoming collection of essays, *Onesheets*, a finalist for a 2013 Creative Capital Innovative Literature grant. His recent work has appeared in *The Nation*, *Chicago Review*, *The Brooklyn Rail*, *A Public Space*, *Lana Turner*, *The Paris Review*, *Guernica*, *The Awl*, and *The Poetry Project Newsletter*, among other journals and magazines. *A Several World* received the 2014 James Laughlin Award from the Academy of American Poets.

Louise Glück was a National Book Award Finalist three times: in 1992 for *The Wild Iris*, which also won the Pulitzer Prize, in 1999 for *Vita Nova*, and in 2006 for *Averno*. She is the author of ten books of poems and a collection of essays. Her many awards include the National Book Critics Circle Award, the Bollingen Prize, the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize, and the Wallace Stevens Award from the Academy of American Poets. A former Poet Laureate of the United

States, she teaches at Yale University and lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Edward Hirsch is the author of fourteen books of poetry and prose. A 1991 National Book Awards Poetry Judge, Hirsch has received numerous awards and fellowships, including a MacArthur Fellowship, a Guggenheim Fellowship, an Ingram Merrill Foundation Award, a Pablo Neruda Presidential Medal of Honor, the Prix de Rome, and an Academy of Arts and Letters Award. In 2008, he was elected a Chancellor of the Academy of American Poets. He is now president of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation.
www.edwardhirsch.com

Fanny Howe is the author of more than twenty books of poetry and prose, including most recently *Come and See*, *The Lyrics*, and *The Winter Sun: Notes on a Vocation*. A recipient of numerous awards, in 2009 she received the Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize from the Poetry Foundation for lifetime achievement. She lives in New England.

Maureen N. McLane is a critic and author of the poetry collections, *Same Life and World Enough*, as well as *My Poets*—an experimental hybrid of memoir and criticism, which was a finalist for the 2012 National Book Critics Circle Award in Autobiography. A contributing editor at *Boston Review*, her articles on poetry, fiction, teaching, and sexuality have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Chicago Tribune*, *Boston Review*, *The Washington Post*, *American Poet*, and on the Poetry Foundation website. She is a professor of English at New York University.

Fred Moten is the author of *In the Break: The Aesthetics of the Black Radical Tradition*, *Hughson's Tavern*, *B. Jenkins*, and co-author, with Stefano Harney, of *The Undercommons: Fugitive Planning and Black Study*. Moten was recognized as one of ten “New American Poets” by the Poetry Society of America. He is also co-founder and co-publisher (with Joseph Donahue) of a small literary press called Three Count Pour. He is a professor of English at the University of California—Riverside.

Claudia Rankine is the author of four collections of poetry, including *Don't Let Me Be Lonely: An American Lyric*, *PLOT*, *The End of the Alphabet*, and *Nothing in Nature is Private*, which received the Cleveland State Poetry Prize. A judge for the National Book Award for Poetry in 2006, Rankine is a winner of the Jackson Poetry Prize and a recipient of fellowships from the Academy of American Poets, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Lannan Foundation. She is the Henry G. Lee Professor of English at Pomona College. <http://claudiarankine.com/>

Spencer Reece is an Episcopal priest. His first poetry collection, *The Clerk's Tale*, won the Bakeless Prize in 2003. He has received a National Endowment for the Arts grant, a Guggenheim fellowship, the Witter Bynner Prize from the Library of Congress, a Whiting Writers' Award, and the Amy Lowell Traveling Scholarship. His poems have been published in *The New Yorker*, *Poetry*, *The American Scholar*, and *The New Republic*. Last year, he served as the chaplain to the Bishop of Spain for the Reformed Episcopal Church, La Iglesia Española Reformada Episcopal. Currently he is completing a book of prose, *The Little Entrance*, about his decision to become a priest in middle age.

Mark Strand was a National Book Award Finalist for *Darker* in 1971 and *Selected Poems* in 1981. Strand is the author of ten poetry collections, two books of prose, several volumes of translations, and he is the editor of several anthologies. He has received many honors and awards, including a MacArthur Fellowship, the Pulitzer Prize, the Bollingen Prize, and the Gold Medal for Poetry from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. In 1990, he was appointed Poet Laureate of the United States.

Publishers submitted a total of 219 books for the 2014 National Book Award for Poetry. Five distinguished Judges were given the charge of selecting what they deem to be the best books of the year. Their decisions are made independently of the National Book Foundation staff and Board of Directors; deliberations are strictly confidential. To be eligible for a 2014 National Book Award, a book must have been written by a US citizen and published in the United States between December 1, 2013 and November 30, 2014.

2014 Judges for Poetry:

Eileen Myles is the author of many books of poetry and prose, including *Snowflake/different streets*, *The Importance of Being Iceland*, and *Inferno (a poet's novel)* now available on iTunes in her own voice. She lives in New York and is the recipient of a 2014 Foundation for Contemporary Art Award in Poetry. eileenmyles.com

Katie Peterson is the author of three books of poetry, *This One Tree*, *Permission*, and *The Accounts*. She has been awarded the 2014 Rilke Prize from the University of North Texas (for *The Accounts*), and she has received fellowships from the Foundation for Contemporary Arts, and the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study. KatiePeterson.org

Rowan Ricardo Phillips is the author of *The Ground: Poems* as well as the critical volume *When Blackness Rhymes with Blackness*. He translated Salvador Espriu's story collection *Ariadne in the Grottesque Labyrinth*. Phillips is the winner of several awards including a Whiting Writers' Award, the PEN/Joyce Osterweil Award, and the Great Lakes Colleges Association New Writers Award for Poetry. A contributing writer at *Artforum*, he has taught at Columbia University and at SUNY-Stony Brook, where he served as director of the Poetry Center.

Robert Polito's books include the poetry collections *Hollywood & God* and *Doubles*, as well as *A Reader's Guide to James Merrill's The Changing Light at Sandover* and the Library of

America editions of *Kenneth Fearing*, *Manny Farber*, and *David Goodis*. He received the National Book Critics Circle Award for *Savage Art: A Biography of Jim Thompson*. He founded the graduate program in creative writing at the New School, and is president of the Poetry Foundation.

Paisley Rekdal is the author of a book of essays, *The Night My Mother Met Bruce Lee*; a hybrid-genre photo-text memoir that combines poetry, fiction, nonfiction and photography entitled *Intimate*; and four books of poetry: *A Crash of Rhinos*, *Six Girls Without Pants*, *The Invention of the Kaleidoscope*, and *Animal Eye*, which was a finalist for the 2013 Kingsley Tufts Prize and the Balcones Prize, and winner of the UNT Rilke Prize. PaisleyRekdal.com

The remaining Longlists for the Nonfiction, and Fiction categories will be revealed exclusively in *The New York Times* at 8 a.m. ET as follows: Nonfiction on September 17; and finally, the Longlist for Fiction on September 18.

The National Book Award Finalists will be announced exclusively on NPR's *Morning Edition* on October 15, and the Winners at the invitation-only National Book Awards Ceremony and Benefit Dinner on November 19 in New York City.

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*The National Book Foundation's mission is to celebrate the best of American literature, to expand its audience, and to enhance the cultural value of good writing in America. In addition to the National Book Awards, for which it is best known, the Foundation's programs include **5 Under 35**, a celebration of emerging fiction writers selected by former National Book Award Finalists and Winners; the **National Book Awards Teen Press Conference**, an opportunity for New York City students to interview the current National Book Award Finalists in Young People's Literature; **NBA on Campus**, a partnership that brings National Book Award authors to colleges and universities across the country; the **Innovations in Reading Prize**, awarded to individuals and institutions that have developed innovative means of creating and sustaining a lifelong love of reading; and **BookUp**, a writer-led, after-school reading program.*

The National Book Award is one of the nation's most prestigious literary prizes and has a stellar record of identifying and rewarding quality writing. In 1950, William Carlos Williams was the first Winner in Poetry, the following year William Faulkner was honored in Fiction, and so on through the years. Many previous Winners of a National Book Award are now firmly established in the canon of American literature, such as Sherman Alexie, Louise Erdrich, Jonathan Franzen, Denis Johnson, James McBride, Joyce Carol Oates, and Adrienne Rich.