



National Book Foundation

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2013 NATIONAL BOOK AWARDS LONGLIST FOR POETRY

NATIONAL BOOK FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES SECOND OF FOUR LONGLISTS

New York, NY (September 17, 2013) – The National Book Foundation announces the Longlist for the 2013 National Book Award in Poetry. This is the first time in the history of the National Book Awards that the Foundation has presented Longlists for all four categories of its Awards. Finalists will be revealed on October 16.

Nine of the ten authors are receiving National Book Award recognition for the first time. The selection includes many of the country's preeminent writers of contemporary poetry and one emerging voice, whose first published collection has already received significant acclaim. The Longlist also includes a National Book Award Finalist, two Pulitzer Prize finalists, a *Los Angeles Times* Book Award winner, a National Book Critics Circle Award finalist, and two Cave Canem Fellows.

2013 Longlist for Poetry:

Frank Bidart, *Metaphysical Dog*, Farrar, Straus and Giroux

Roger Bonair-Agard, *Bury My Clothes*, Haymarket Books

Lucie Brock-Broido, *Stay, Illusion*, Alfred A. Knopf

Andrei Codrescu, *So Recently Rent a World, New and Selected Poems: 1968-2012*, Coffee House Press

Brenda Hillman, *Seasonal Works with Letters on Fire*, Wesleyan University Press

Adrian Matejka, *The Big Smoke*, Penguin Poets/Penguin Group USA
Diane Raptosh, *American Amnesiac*, Etruscan Press

Matt Rasmussen, *Black Aperture*, Louisiana State University Press

Martha Ronk, *Transfer of Qualities*, Omnidawn Publishing

Mary Szybist, *Incarnadine: Poems*, Graywolf Press

Author biographies:

Frank Bidart has been thrice honored as a National Book Award Finalist: in 1997 for *Desire*, in 2005 for *Star Dust*, and in 2008 for *Watching the Spring Festival*. A recipient of the Wallace Stevens Award and the [Bollingen Prize](#), and a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize, Bidart is a Chancellor of the Academy of American Poets. Bidart is the Andrew W. Mellon Professor of Humanities at Wellesley College and lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Roger Bonair-Agard is the author of two poetry collections, *Tarnish and Masquerade* and *Gully*; a Cave Canem fellow; and two time National Poetry Slam Champion. A co-founder and artistic director of the LouderARTS Project in New York City, Bonair-Agard is now a consulting poet with the Young Chicago Authors Project. A native of Trinidad and Tobago, Bonair-Agard lives in Chicago.

Andrei Codrescu served as a Fiction Judge for the National Book Award in 2010. A Peabody-Award winning filmmaker, Codrescu is the author of numerous books of poetry, novels, and essays. He is the founder of the literary magazine *Exquisite Corpse*, and Codrescu's commentary is featured regularly on NPR's *All Things Considered*. Born in Sibiu, Transylvania, Romania, Codrescu now lives in the Ozarks near the Buffalo River National Park.

Brenda Hillman is the author of nine previous poetry collections, including *Practical Water*, which earned the *Los Angeles Times* Book Award for Poetry in 2009, and *Bright Existence*, which was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in 1993. Married to poet Robert Haas, a 1997 National Book Award Winner, Hillman is on the faculty of Saint Mary's College in Moraga, California.

Adrian Matejka's first collection of poems, *The Devil's Garden*, won the 2002 New York/New England Award from Alice James Books. His second collection, *Mixology*, was a winner of the 2008 National Poetry Series. He is the recipient of two Illinois Arts Council Literary Awards and fellowships from Cave Canem and the Lannan Foundation. Born in Nuremberg, Germany, Matejka teaches creative writing at Indiana University in Bloomington.

Diane Raptosh has published three books of poems and was nominated for a Pushcart Prize. She is the recipient of three literature fellowships from the Idaho Commission on the Arts, and was named Boise's first Poet Laureate in 2013. Raptosh teaches creative writing and literature at The College of Idaho in Boise.

Matt Rasmussen's *Black Aperture* is the author's first book of poems and the winner of the 2012 Walt Whitman Award from the Academy of American Poets. Rasmussen is a visiting assistant professor of English at Gustavus Adolphus College in Saint Peter, Minnesota.

Martha Ronk has published a number of poetry collections, works of fiction, and chapbooks, including *Vertigo*, which was a National Poetry Series selection, and *In a Landscape of Having to Repeat*, which received the PEN Center USA 2005 Poetry Award. Ronk is the Irma and Jay Price Professor of English Literature at Occidental College in Los Angeles.

Mary Szybist's first poetry collection, *Granted*, was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award. She received a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts, a Rona Jaffe Foundation Writing Award, and a Witter Bynner Fellowship from the Library of Congress. Szybist is Assistant Professor of English at Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Oregon.

Publishers submitted a total of 209 books for the 2013 National Book Award in 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 2013 National Book Award, a book must have been written by a US citizen and published in the United States between December 1, 2012 and November 30, 2013.

2013 Judges for Poetry:

Nikky Finney (Chair) is the author of four books of poetry: *Head Off & Split*, Winner of the 2011 National Book Award in Poetry, *The World Is Round*, *Rice*, and *On Wings Made of Gauze*. She also authored *Heartwood*, a story collection for adult literacy students, and edited *The Ringing Ear: Black Poets Lean South*. The Guy Davenport Endowed Professor in the Department of English at the University of Kentucky for twenty years, she was recently named John H. Bennett, Jr. Chair of Southern Literature and Creative Writing at the University of South Carolina in Columbia. <http://nikkyfinney.net>

Ada Limón's first collection of poetry, *Lucky Wreck*, was the winner of the 2005 Autumn House Poetry Prize. She is also the author of *This Big Fake World*, winner of the 2005 Pearl Poetry Prize, and *Sharks in the Rivers*. She lives in Sonoma, California and Lexington, Kentucky. www.adalimon.com

D.A. Powell won the 2013 National Book Critics Circle Award for his collection *Useless Landscape: A Guide for Boys*. He has received fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts. He lives in San Francisco.

Jahan Ramazani's books include *A Transnational Poetics*, winner of the Harry Levin Prize of the American Comparative Literature Association, and *Poetry of Mourning: The Modern Elegy from Hardy to Heaney*, a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award. He also co-edited *The Norton Anthology of English Literature*, *The Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics*, and *The Norton Anthology of Modern and Contemporary Poetry*. Ramazani is Edgar F. Shannon Professor in the Department of English at the University of Virginia.

Craig Morgan Teicher is the author of *Brenda Is in the Room and Other Poems*, which earned the 2007 Colorado Prize for Poetry. He is also the author of a collection of short stories and

fables, *Cradle Book*, and *To Keep Love Blurry: Poems*. He is Poetry Reviews Editor of *Publishers Weekly* and lives in Brooklyn. www.craigmorganteicher.com

The Longlists for the Nonfiction and Fiction categories will be revealed exclusively at thedailybeast.com at 9:00 a.m. (EDT) as follows: Nonfiction on September 18, and finally, the Longlist for Fiction on September 19.

The National Book Award Finalists will be announced on October 16, and the Winners at the invitation-only National Book Awards Ceremony and Gala on November 20 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 current National Book Award authors to Concordia College in Moorhead, MN; 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 club for middle- and high-school students, run in New York City and Texas.*

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, Joyce Carol Oates, and Adrienne Rich.