PEN President ANDREW SOLOMON and Literary Awards Committee Chair MONIQUE TRUONG present the

2016 PEN Literary Awards Ceremony

MASTER OF CEREMONIES TINA CHANG

APRIL 11, 2016

6:30 PM, Reception to follow
The New School
The Auditorium | 66 West 12th Street
New York City
Creative Artists Agency
congratulates our clients

SCOTT ELLSWORTH
PEN/ESPN Award for Literary Sports Writing

YOUNG JEAN LEE
American Playwright in Mid-Career Award

LYNN NOTTAGE
Master American Dramatist Award

CAA
PEN wishes to thank tonight’s presenters who represent PEN’s membership of novelists, poets, translators, journalists, and literary citizens, as well as all of this year’s dedicated judges. To read the judges’ full citations for this year’s winners, please visit PEN.org.

WELCOME REMARKS
Luis Jaramillo
Director
Creative Writing Program
The New School

OPENING ADDRESS
Monique Truong
Chair
PEN Literary Awards Committee

MASTER OF CEREMONIES
Tina Chang

PRESENTERS
David Epstein
Kirsten Greenidge
Meghan O’Rourke
Burton Pike
Monique Truong

CLOSING REMARKS
Suzanne Nossel
Executive Director
PEN America
TRANSLATION AWARDS

PEN TRANSLATION PRIZE
($3,000)

WINNER
Katrina Dodson
for her translation from the Portuguese of The Complete Stories by Clarice Lispector (New Directions)

“Katrina Dodson’s translation of Clarice Lispector’s The Complete Stories is a revelation that lays bare the breadth of both the author’s and translator’s talent.”
—From the judges’ citation: Elisabeth Jaquette, Aviya Kushner, Ronald Meyer, Sara Nović, and Jeffrey Zuckerman

PEN AWARD FOR POETRY IN TRANSLATION
($3,000)

WINNER
Sawako Nakayasu
for her translation from the Japanese of The Collected Poems of Chika Sagawa (Canarium Books)

“Sawako Nakayasu’s formidable translations capture the verbal kinetics and striking imagery of Sagawa’s poetry without sacrificing its clarity and economy.”
—From the judge’s citation: Urayoán Noel
We Proudly Support the

2016 PEN LITERARY AWARDS

And Congratulate Our Client

TONI MORRISON

PEN/Saul Bellow Award for Achievement in American Fiction Recipient
Congratulations to Sawako Nakayasu, winner of the PEN Award for Poetry in Translation!

CANARIUM BOOKS
www.canarium.org
TRANSLATION AWARDS

PEN/EDWARD AND LILY TUCK AWARD FOR PARAGUAYAN LITERATURE ($3,000)
To a living author of a major work of Paraguayan literature not yet translated into English.

WINNER
Nathalia María Echauri Castagnino
Doce Lunas Llenas: Poesias sobre la Divina Energía Femenina

“The poems balance playfulness with fury and build upon one another with an insistent forward momentum. These are full, rich poems, dense and layered, while the voice remains direct and persuasive.”
—From the judges’ citation: Ezra E. Fitz, Amalia Gladhart, and Mark Weiss

Metropolitan Books Congratulates Dalya Bilu
Translator of The Sound of Our Steps

Longlisted for the PEN Translation Prize

www.metropolitanbooks.com
Eqbal Ahmad
Critical Outsider in a Turbulent Age

STUART SCHAAR

Longlist – 2016 PEN/Jacqueline Bograd Weld Award for Biography

“Eqbal Ahmad was a brilliant and penetrating critic and analyst, a courageous fighter for justice and freedom in much of the world, steeped in humanistic understanding, warm and compassionate, a dear friend . . . His life, achievements, and legacy are vividly portrayed by his close friend Stuart Schaar in this outstanding study, a fine tribute to one of the most remarkable people I’ve been fortunate enough to know, or even to know about.”

—Noam Chomsky

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Swan Isle Press
congratulates
ANTHONY GEIST
(University of Washington)
as a finalist for the 2016 PEN Award for Poetry in Translation.

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Swan Isle Press is distributed by The University of Chicago Press
BOOK AWARDS

PEN/JACQUELINE BOGRAD WELD AWARD FOR BIOGRAPHY ($5,000)
For a distinguished biography published in 2015.

WINNER
Nancy Princenthal
Agnes Martin: Her Life and Art
(Thames & Hudson)

“Nancy Princenthal, a veteran art critic, has appropriated Martin’s measured style as her own in her fascinating biography of the artist.”
—From the judges’ citation: Nell Irvin Painter, Deborah Solomon, and Simon Winchester

PEN/ESPN AWARD FOR LITERARY SPORTS WRITING ($5,000)
To honor a nonfiction book on the subject of sports published in 2015.

WINNER
Scott Ellsworth
The Secret Game: A Wartime Story of Courage, Change, and Basketball’s Lost Triumph
(Little, Brown & Company/Hachette Book Group)

“It is sports writing at its most impactful. May it inspire similar works in the years to come.”
—From the judges’ citation: David Epstein, Ann Killion, and Dave Zirin
PEN/E.O. WILSON LITERARY SCIENCE WRITING AWARD
($10,000)

For a book of literary nonfiction on the subject of the physical or biological sciences published in 2015.

Judges: Joshua Foer, Virginia Hughes, and Sonia Shah

FINALISTS

Cynthia Barnett
Rain: A Natural and Cultural History
(Crown)

Joel K. Bourne Jr.
The End of Plenty: The Race to Feed a Crowded World
(W. W. Norton & Company)

Tom Clynes
The Boy Who Played with Fusion: Extreme Science, Extreme Parenting, and How to Make a Star
(Eamon Dolan/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)

Lauren Redniss
Thunder & Lightning: Weather Past, Present, Future
(Random House)

Alexandra Witze & Jeff Kanipe
Island on Fire: The Extraordinary Story of a Forgotten Volcano That Changed the World
(Pegasus Books)

The winner of this award will be announced during the ceremony.
PEN/DIAMONSTEIN-SPIELVOGEL AWARD
FOR THE ART OF THE ESSAY
($10,000)
For a book of essays published in 2015 that exemplifies the dignity and esteem that the essay form imparts to literature.

Judges: Verlyn Klinkenborg, Meghan O’Rourke, and Luc Sante

FINALISTS
Renata Adler
*After the Tall Timber: Collected Nonfiction*
(New York Review Books)

Ta-Nehisi Coates
*Between the World and Me*
(Spiegel & Grau/Random House)

Susan Howe
*The Quarry*
(New Directions)

Marilynne Robinson
*The Givenness of Things*
(Farrar, Straus and Giroux)

David L. Ulin
*Sidewalking: Coming to Terms with Los Angeles*
(University of California Press)

The winner of this award will be announced during the ceremony.
FARRAR, STRAUS AND GIROUX
congratulates our
2016 PEN Literary Awards nominees

The Givenness of Things
Marilynne Robinson
Finalist for the PEN/Diamonstein-Spielvogel Award for the Art of the Essay

The Blizzard
Vladimir Sorokin
Translated from the Russian by Jamey Gambrell
Finalist for the PEN Translation Prize

Heaven
Rowan Ricardo Phillips
Long-listed for the
PEN Open Book Award

Spooky Action at a Distance
George Musser
Long-listed for the
PEN/E. O. Wilson
Literary Science Writing Award

www.fsgbooks.com

CONGRATULATIONS, RICK BAROT!
And to all the PEN Open Book Award finalists

Sarabande Books
PEN OPEN BOOK AWARD
($5,000)
For an exceptional book-length work of literature by an author of color published in 2015.

Judges: Rachel Eliza Griffiths, Celeste Ng, and Héctor Tobar

FINALISTS
Rick Barot
Chord
(Sarabande Books)
Reginald Dwayne Betts
Bastards of the Reagan Era
(Four Way Books)
Vievee Francis
Forest Primeval: Poems
(Triquarterly Books/Northwestern)
Marie Mutsuki Mockett
Where the Dead Pause, and the Japanese Say Goodbye: A Journey
(W. W. Norton & Company)
Lauret Savoy
Trace: Memory, History, Race, and the American Landscape
(Counterpoint)

The winner of this award will be announced during the ceremony.
COFFEE HOUSE PRESS

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JULIE IROMUANYA

MR. AND MRS. DOCTOR

finalist for the
PEN/Robert W. Bingham Prize for Debut Fiction

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Europa Editions
congratulates

JENNIFER TSENG

finalist for the 2016
PEN/Robert W. Bingham Debut Fiction Prize

www.europaeditions.com
PEN/ROBERT W. BINGHAM PRIZE FOR DEBUT FICTION ($25,000)

To an author whose debut work—a first novel or collection of short stories published in 2015—represents distinguished literary achievement and suggests great promise of a second work of literary fiction.

Judges: Helon Habila, Elizabeth McCracken, Edie Meidav, and Jess Row

FINALISTS

Mia Alvar
*In the Country: Stories*  
(Alfred A. Knopf)

Angela Flournoy
*The Turner House*  
(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)

Julie Iromuanya
*Mr. and Mrs. Doctor*  
(Coffee House Press)

Viet Thanh Nguyen
*The Sympathizer: A Novel*  
(Grove Press)

Jennifer Tseng
*Mayumi and the Sea of Happiness*  
(Europa Editions)

The winner of this award will be announced during the ceremony.
CAREER ACHIEVEMENT & MANUSCRIPT AWARDS

PEN/SAUL BELLOW AWARD FOR ACHIEVEMENT IN AMERICAN FICTION ($25,000)
To a distinguished living American author of fiction.

WINNER
Toni Morrison

“Toni Morrison not only opened doors to others when she began to publish, she has also stayed grounded in the issues of her time. At every turn, she has commented upon and enlarged the conversation about what it is to be black, female, human, universal.”
—From the judges’ citation: Louise Erdrich, Dinaw Mengestu, and Francine Prose

PEN/BELLWETHER PRIZE FOR SOCIALLY ENGAGED FICTION
FOUNDED BY BARBARA KINGSOLVER ($25,000)
To an author of an unpublished novel that addresses issues of social justice. The prize also includes a publishing contract with Algonquin Books.

WINNER
Lisa Ko
“The Leavers”
(Forthcoming from Algonquin Books)

“Lisa Ko’s ‘The Leavers’ is a rich and sensitive portrait of lives lived across borders, cultures, and languages. ...one of the most engaging, deeply probing, and beautiful books I have read this year.”
—From the judges’ citation: Laila Lalami, Kathy Pories, and Brando Skyhorse
PEN/FUSION EMERGING WRITERS PRIZE
($10,000)

For a promising young writer under the age of 35 for an unpublished work of nonfiction that addresses a global and/or multicultural issue.

Judges: Marie Arana, Manuel Gonzales, and Johnny Temple

FINALISTS
Victoria Blanco
“Visions of Oasis”
Laurel Fantauzzo
“Archipelago Sleepovers”
Jean Guerrero
“Crux”
Jaclyn Moyer
“The Girl Outside My Window”

The winner of this award will be announced during the ceremony.
OPEN LETTER BOOKS CONGRATULATES

ANGELA RODEL
FINALIST FOR THE PEN TRANSLATION PRIZE FOR:

THE PHYSICS OF SORROW
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LITERARY TRANSLATIONS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

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NEW YORK REVIEW BOOKS congratulates

Renata Adler author of
AFTER THE TALL TIMBER: COLLECTED NONFICTION
selected as a finalist for the PEN/Diamonstein-Spielvogel Award for the Art of the Essay

Jason Weiss translator of
SILVINA OCAMPO
on being shortlisted for the PEN Award for Poetry in Translation

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PEN/LAURA PELS INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR THEATER AWARDS

Three awards which honor a Master American Dramatist, American Playwright in Mid-Career, and Emerging American Playwright.

**Master American Dramatist**
**WINNER**
Lynn Nottage

“Her inspiring array of work speaks to the strength of the human spirit within all of us.”
—From the judges’ citation: Annie Baker, Kirsten Greenidge, and Tracy Letts

**Playwright in Mid-Career ($7,500)**
**WINNER**
Young Jean Lee

“No play she writes is anything like the play that came before, and her treatment of race, gender, and sexual politics onstage is devastatingly astute and subversive. The judges can’t wait to see what she does next.”
—From the judges’ citation: Annie Baker, Kirsten Greenidge, and Tracy Letts

**Emerging Playwright ($2,500)**
**WINNER**
Branden Jacobs-Jenkins

“Showing a deftness with different styles and a sharpness in elucidating mature themes, Branden Jacobs-Jenkins has already proven that he is a writer to whom we must listen and whose future work we anticipate.”
—From the judges’ citation: Annie Baker, Kirsten Greenidge, and Tracy Letts
New Directions congratulates our 2016 PEN award-winners and finalists!

Katrina Dodson  Winner of the PEN Translation Prize
David Hinton  Finalist for the PEN Award for Poetry in Translation
Susan Howe  Finalist for the PEN/Diamonstein-Spielvogel Award for the Art of the Essay

Congratulations to Ed Roberson, winner of the 2016 PEN/Voelcker Award for Poetry

“Since the publication of his first collection ... Ed Roberson has been reinventing contemporary poetics. His energized, formally innovative syntax finds shape for his primary subject: the common bond of humankind and nature.”

—from the Judges’ Citation

“... in this dreamy collection, human features stand out as distinct then blend into the nature of the world surrounding them. We can’t always tell plant from animal from mineral, and Roberson reminds us that in the end, as in poetry, such distinctions are moot.”

—Camille T. Dungy, editor of Black Nature

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PEN/PHYLLIS NAYLOR WORKING WRITER FELLOWSHIP ($5,000)

For an author of children’s or young-adult fiction to complete a book-length work-in-progress.

WINNER
Ash Parsons
“A Chemical Distance” (Available for publication)

“Brimming with heartbreak and humor, a palpable voice and a creativity rarely shown when tackling such a weighted plot line, Ash Parsons’ ‘A Chemical Distance’ somehow makes the darkest of darknesses shine bright.”
—From the judges’ citation: Emily Arnold McCully, Katherine Paterson, and Jason Reynolds

PEN/VOELCKER AWARD FOR POETRY ($5,000)

To a poet whose distinguished and growing body of work to date represents a notable and accomplished presence in American literature.

WINNER
Ed Roberson

“Ed Roberson is rightly regarded as the lyric father of ecopoetics and his ongoing body of work exerts a profound force in urgent times.”
—From the judges’ citation: Catherine Barnett, Jericho Brown, and Tina Chang
Congratulations to BILL CLEGG
Longlisted for the PEN/Robert W. Bingham Prize for Debut Fiction for

DID YOU EVER HAVE A FAMILY

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PEGASUS BOOKS CONGRATULATES
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PEN/E. O. Wilson Literary
Science Writing Award

“A compelling and engrossing story.” —The Seattle Times
“Deftly interweaving information compiled by naturalists and astronomers of the day with interviews with modern-day scientists and historians, the authors provide a captivating overview of the eruption.” —Science News

Pegasus Books
Distributed by W. W. Norton & Company
PEN/ESPN LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR LITERARY SPORTS WRITING ($5,000)

To a writer in recognition of a lifetime of writing about sports and its dimensions of character and action with keen knowledge and insight, and especially with a literary voice evidenced in a style of agility and flair.

WINNER
John Schulan

“For more than 35 years John Schulan’s sports writing has stamped sentences on his readers’ minds with the same verve and force of typewriter keys denting pages.”
—From the judges’ citation: Senator William W. Bradley, Sally Jenkins, and Dave Kindred

PEN/HEIM TRANSLATION FUND GRANTS ($2,000-$4,000)

To promote world literature translated into English.

Judges: Esther Allen, Peter Blackstock, Sara Khalili, Tynan Kogane, Allison Markin Powell, Antonio Romani, Chip Rossetti, and Alex Zucker

Recipients of the PEN/Heim Translation Fund Grants will be announced later this spring.
PEN President’s Circle

The PEN President’s Circle consists of individuals who both care deeply about PEN’s work and annually make significant commitments of support. President’s Circle Members are essential partners in all PEN’s work: securing the liberty of imprisoned writers of conscience, mobilizing writers as agents for social change, and producing compelling public literary programs.

PEN President’s Circle Membership Benefits

Poets—For our most committed donors
In addition to the benefits listed at the Novelists and Essayists levels:
• Invitations to private events, including the PEN World Voices Festival opening and closing night cocktail receptions
• Annual reception with the PEN Board of Trustees
• Invitation to one exclusive Author’s Evening per year, open only to President’s Circle members, featuring a leading writer in an intimate setting

Essayists—For donors contributing $5,000+ per annum
In addition to the benefits listed at the Novelists level:
• Early sign-up for PEN winter Authors’ Evenings prior to the program’s official announcement
• Invitation to the PEN New Members/New Books Party, a gathering of more than 350 established and up-and-coming writers
• VIP seating and access to the annual PEN Literary Awards ceremony and reception

Novelists—For donors contributing $2,500+ per annum
• Preferential seating and early access, where available, to PEN programming events, such as the annual PEN Prison Writing Showcase, Arthur Miller Freedom to Write Lecture and other PEN World Voices Festival events and PEN Tribute series
• Complimentary tickets to PEN’s pop-up events and public programming
• Inclusion in an honor roll acknowledgement on PEN’s website, in the annual report, and in the Literary Gala journal

For further information contact Lorna Flynn, Senior Development Manager, at lorna@pen.org or (646) 779-4817.
Poets

Essayists

Novelists

Benefits are updated as opportunities arise and reviewed annually. Membership to the President’s Circle is based on individual giving.
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Michael Moritz and
Harriet Heyman
PEN/Saul Bellow Award for
Achievement in American Fiction

Barbara Kingsolver
PEN/Bellwether Prize for Socially
Engaged Fiction

The Family of Robert Bingham
PEN/Robert W. Bingham Prize

Barbaralee Diamonstein-
Spielvogel and Carl Spielvogel
PEN/Diamonstein-Spielvogel
Award

Univision
PEN/FUSION Emerging
Writers Prize

Dr. Edward O. Wilson, the E. O.
Wilson Biodiversity Foundation,
and James and Cathy Stone
PEN/E. O. Wilson Literary Science
Writing Award

The Laura Pels International
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PEN/Jacqueline Bograd
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Translation
PEN Open Book Award

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PEN gratefully acknowledges
Bauman Rare Books and the
creative writing program at
The New School for their
generosity and hospitality.
Special thanks to the evening’s
sponsor CAA.

Thanks to each of the members
of the PEN Literary Awards
Committee: Akiko Busch, Ken
Chen, David Ebershoff, Brigid
Hughes, Steph Opitz, Alice
Quinn, Paul Slovak, Hannah Tinti,
Monique Truong (Chair), and
Sasha Weiss.
PRESENTERS

Tina Chang is the Poet Laureate of Brooklyn. The first woman named to this position, she was raised in New York City. She is the author of the poetry collections *Half-Lit Houses* and *Of Gods & Strangers* (Four Way Books) and co-editor of the anthology *Language for a New Century: Contemporary Poetry from the Middle East, Asia and Beyond* (W. W. Norton). Her poems have appeared in *American Poet*, *McSweeney’s*, *Ploughshares*, and *The New York Times* among others.

David Epstein is the author of the *New York Times* bestseller *The Sports Gene*, and an investigative reporter at *ProPublica*. He was previously a senior writer at *Sports Illustrated*, where he wrote about science and medicine, and authored many of the magazine’s most high-profile stories, including the revelation that Yankees’ third baseman Alex Rodriguez had used steroids. His 2014 TED talk was one of the 20 most viewed of the year.

Kirsten Greenidge is a Village Voice/Obie Award winner and a recent PEN/Laura Pels Award recipient. She is the author of *Luck of the Irish*, *Splendor*, *Bossa Nova*, *Rust*, and many more. She has developed her work at Sundance, National New Play Network, The O’Neill, and New Dramatists, among many others. She is a Huntington Playwriting Fellow, a recipient of an NEA/TCG residency at Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, and was playwright in residence at Company One Theatre. Her play *Milk Like Sugar* was performed at the Huntington in January 2016.

Meghan O’Rourke is the author of the memoir *The Long Goodbye* (Riverhead, 2011), as well as the poetry collections *Once* (2011) and *Halflife* (2007). She was awarded a 2014 Guggenheim Fellowship and the Radcliffe Fellowship, among other prizes. She teaches at Princeton and New York University.

Burton Pike co-translated Robert Musil’s *The Man Without Qualities*, and translated Goethe’s *The Sorrows of Young Werther*, Rilke’s *The Notebooks of Malte Laurids Brigge*, and Gerhard Meier’s *Island of the Dead*, which won the 2012 Helen and Kurt Wolff Prize for best translation of a literary work from German published in 2011. He was awarded the 2016 Friedrich Ulfers Prize “for promoting German literature in the United States.”

Monique Truong is a novelist, essayist, and Chair of the PEN Literary Awards Committee. Her first novel, *The Book of Salt* (Houghton Mifflin), received numerous awards including the 2004 PEN/Robert W. Bingham Prize. Her second novel, *Bitter in the Mouth* (Random House), received the American Academy of Arts’ Rosenthal Family Foundation Award. Truong will be the Harman Writer-in-Residence at Baruch College in the Fall of 2016.
ABOUT PEN AMERICA

PEN America is the largest of the 145 centers of PEN International, the world’s leading human rights and international literary organization. PEN International was founded in 1921 to dispel national, ethnic, and racial tensions and to promote understanding among all countries. PEN America works to advance literature, to defend free expression, and to foster international literary fellowship. For over 50 years, the PEN Literary Awards Program has honored and introduced some of the most outstanding voices in literature across such diverse genres as debut fiction, poetry, essay, biography, translation, sports and science writing, children’s books, as well as several career achievement awards.

To learn more, please visit PEN.org or email awards@pen.org.

Paul W. Morris
Director of Literary Programs

Arielle Anema
Literary Awards Coordinator

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congratulates
David L. Ulin
on his
PEN/Diamonstein-Spielvogel Award for the Art of the Essay nomination
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Congratulates our Authors

Nancy Princenthal
author of
AGNES MARTIN
Her Life and Art
Winner of the 2016
PEN/Jacqueline Bograd Weld
Award for Biography

Linda Nochlin
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Award for the Art of the Essay

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PEN AMERICA is proud to support PEN America’s efforts to advance literature and defend free expression.
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Viet Thanh Nguyen
author of The Sympathizer

“Intelligent, relentlessly paced, and savagely funny.”
—Wall Street Journal
(Best Books of the Year)

“A remarkable debut novel . . .
In its final chapters, The Sympathizer becomes an absurdist tour de force that might have been written by a Kafka or Genet.”
—Philip Caputo,
New York Times Book Review
(covers review)

Shortlisted for the PEN/Robert W. Bingham Prize for Debut Fiction

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Rosemary Sullivan
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Dimitry Elias Léger
God Loves Haiti
Longlisted for the PEN Open Book Award

Frances E. Jensen, MD
The Teenage Brain
Longlisted for the PEN/E. O. Wilson Literary Science Writing Award

James McGrath Morris
Eye on the Struggle
Longlisted for the PEN/Jacqueline Bograd Weld Award for Biography

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As ardent supporters of the PEN Literary Awards, we proudly congratulate TONI MORRISON, recipient of the PEN/Saul Bellow Award of Achievement in American Fiction, and ASH PARSONS for her PEN/Phyllis Naylor Working Writer Fellowship.

We applaud our finalists:
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