

**NBCC Awards Celebration**  
**Publishing Year 2020**

**Thursday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 7 pm**

**Welcome**

Luis Jaramillo, Director of the New School Creative Writing Program

**Opening Remarks**

David Varno, President, National Book Critics Circle

**John Leonard Prize**

Introduced by Megan Labrise

Kerri Arsenault, *Mill Town: Reckoning with What Remains* (St. Martin's)

Karla Cornejo Villavicencio, *The Undocumented Americans* (One World)

Raven Leilani, *Luster* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux)

Megha Majumdar, *A Burning* (Knopf)

Douglas Stuart, *Shuggie Bain* (Grove)

Brandon Taylor, *Real Life* (Riverhead)

C Pam Zhang, *How Much of These Hills Is Gold* (Riverhead)

**Nona Balakian Citation for Excellence in Reviewing**

Jo Livingstone, introduced by Colette Bancroft

**Ivan Sandrof Lifetime Achievement Award**

The Feminist Press, introduced by Michael Schaub and Jamia Wilson

**Autobiography**

Cathy Park Hong, *Minor Feelings:*

*An Asian American Reckoning* (One World)

Shayla Lawson, *This Is Major: Notes on Diana Ross,*

*Dark Girls, and Being Dope* (HarperPerennial)

Riva Lehrer, *Golem Girl* (One World)

Wayétu Moore, *The Dragons, The Giant, The Women* (Graywolf)

Alia Volz, *Home Baked: My Mom, Marijuana,*

*and the Stoning of San Francisco* (HMH)

**Biography**

Zachary D. Carter, *The Price of Peace: Money, Democracy,*  
*and the Life of John Maynard Keynes* (Random House)

Heather Clark, *Red Comet: The Short Life*  
*and Blazing Art of Sylvia Plath* (Knopf)

Maggie Doherty, *The Equivalents: A Story of Art,*  
*Female Friendship, and Liberation in the 1960s* (Knopf)

Les Payne, Tamara Payne, *The Dead Are Arising:*  
*The Life of Malcolm X* (Liveright)

Amy Stanley, *Stranger in the Shogun's City:*  
*A Japanese Woman and Her World* (Scribner)

**Criticism**

Nicole Fleetwood, *Marking Time: Art in the Age*  
*of Mass Incarceration* (Harvard Univ. Press)

Vivian Gornick, *Unfinished Business:*

*Notes of a Chronic Re-Reader* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux)

Cristina Rivera Garza, *Grieving: Dispatches*  
*from a Wounded Country* (Feminist Press)

Namwali Serpell, *Stranger Faces* (Transit)

Wendy A. Woloson, *Crap: A History of Cheap Stuff*  
*in America* (Univ. of Chicago Press)

**Fiction**

Martin Amis, *Inside Story* (Knopf)

Randall Kenan, *If I Had Two Wings* (W.W. Norton)

Maggie O'Farrell, *Hamnet* (Knopf)

Souvankham Thammavongsa, *How to Pronounce Knife*  
(Little, Brown)

Bryan Washington, *Memorial* (Riverhead)

## Nonfiction

Walter Johnson, *The Broken Heart of America: St. Louis and the Violent History of the United States* (Basic)

James Shapiro, *Shakespeare in a Divided America: What His Plays Tell Us About Our Past and Future* (Penguin Press)

Sarah Smarsh, *She Come By It Natural: Dolly Parton and the Women Who Lived Her Songs* (Scribner)

Isabel Wilkerson, *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontent* (Random House)

Tom Zoellner, *Island on Fire: The Revolt That Ended Slavery in the British Empire* (Harvard Univ. Press)

## Poetry

Victoria Chang, *Obit* (Copper Canyon)

francine j. harris, *Here is The Sweet Hand* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux)

Amaud Jamaul Johnson, *Imperial Liquor* (Univ. of Pittsburgh Press)

Chris Nealon, *The Shore* (Wave)

Danez Smith, *Homie* (Graywolf)

## The 2020-2021 NBCC Board

David Varno, President

Colette Bancroft, VP/Secretary, Balakian Chair

Gregg Barrios, VP/Diversity and Inclusion

Jane Ciabattari, VP/Awards and Events, Fiction Chair

Tara Wanda Merrigan, VP/Communications

Carlin Romano, VP/Grants

Richard Z. Santos, VP/Membership

Michael Schaub, VP/Online, Sandrof Chair

Marion Winik, VP/Treasurer and Fundraising,

Autobiography Chair

Jacob M. Appel

Diego Baez

Stephanie Burt, Poetry Chair

Rod Davis

Lori Feathers, Leonard Co-Chair

Charles Finch

Megan Labrise, Leonard Co-Chair

Chelsea Leu

Ben Olguín

J. Howard Rosier, Criticism Chair

Elizabeth Taylor, Biography Chair

Harriet Washington, Nonfiction Chair

## About the National Book Critics Circle

The National Book Critics Circle was founded in 1974 at New York's legendary Algonquin Hotel by a group of the most influential critics of the day, and awarded its first set of honors the following year. Comprising more than 600 working critics and book-review editors throughout the country, the NBCC annually bestows its awards in six categories, honoring the best books published in the past year in the United States. It is considered one of the most prestigious awards in the publishing industry. The finalists for the NBCC awards are nominated, evaluated, and selected by the 24-member board of directors, which consists of critics and editors from some of the country's leading print and online publications, as well as critics whose works appear in these publications. For more information about the history and activities of the National Book Critics Circle and to learn how to become a supporter, visit [www.bookcritics.org](http://www.bookcritics.org).

THE  
NEW  
SCHOOL

CREATIVE  
WRITING



CITY LIGHTS

WILDBOUND

literary pr