

# NBCC Finalists' Reading Publishing Year 2020

Thursday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 5:30 pm

## Welcome

Marion Winik, Treasurer, National Book Critics Circle

## Opening Remarks

Maureen Corrigan, Host & 2018 Nona Balakian Prize Winner

## 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)

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)

Wendy A. Woloson, *Crap: A History of Cheap*

*Stuff in America* (Univ. of Chicago Press)

## Fiction

Randall Kenan (read by Daniel Wallace),

*If I Had Two Wings* (W.W. Norton)

Souvankham Thammavongsa,

*How to Pronounce Knife* (Little, Brown)

Bryan Washington, *Memorial* (Riverhead)

## John Leonard Prize

Kerri Arsenault, *Mill Town: Reckoning*

*with What Remains* (St. Martin's)

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

Megha Majumdar, *A Burning* (Knopf)

Douglas Stuart, *Shuggie Bain* (Grove)

Brandon Taylor, *Real Life* (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)

## 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

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## 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).

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