

NBCC Awards Ceremony

Publishing Year 2021

Thursday, March 17th, 2022 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

Ashley C. Ford, *Somebody's Daughter* (Flatiron Books)

Jocelyn Nicole Johnson, *My Monticello* (Henry Holt)

Torrey Peters, *Detransition, Baby* (One World)

Larissa Pham, *Pop Song* (Catapult)

Anthony Veasna So, *Afterparties* (Ecco)

Devon Walker-Figueroa, *Philomath* (Milkweed Editions)

Nona Balakian Citation for Excellence in Reviewing

Merve Emre, introduced by Colette Bancroft

Ivan Sandrof Lifetime Achievement Award

Percival Everett, introduced by Jacob Appel and Leo Braudy

Toni Morrison Achievement Award

Cave Canem, introduced by Jacob Appel, John Keene, Tracy K. Smith, and Natasha Trethewey,
accepted by Toi Derricotte and Cornelius Eady

Autobiography

Hanif Abdurraqib, *A Little Devil in America: Notes In Praise Of Black Performance* (Random House)

Jeremy Atherton Lin, *Gay Bar: Why We Went Out* (Little, Brown)

Rodrigo Garcia, *A Farewell To Gabo And Mercedes: A Son's Memoir* (HarperVia)

Doireann Ní Ghríofa, *A Ghost In the Throat* (Biblioasis)

Albert Samaha, *Concepcion: An Immigrant Family's Fortunes* (Riverhead)

Biography

Susan Bernofsky, *Clairvoyant of the Small: The Life of Robert Walser* (Yale University Press)

Keisha N. Blain, *Until I Am Free: Fannie Lou Hamer's Enduring Message to America* (Beacon Press)

Rebecca Donner, *All the Frequent Troubles of Our Days: The True Story of the American Woman at the Heart of the German Resistance to Hitler* (Little, Brown)

Mark Harris, *Mike Nichols: A Life* (Penguin Press)

Alexander Nemerov, *Fierce Poise: Helen Frankenthaler and 1950s New York* (Penguin Press)

Criticism

Melissa Febos, *Girlhood* (Bloomsbury)

Jenny Diski, *Why Didn't You Just Do What You Were Told?* (Bloomsbury)

Jesse McCarthy, *Who Will Pay Reparations On My Soul?* (Liveright)

Mark McGurl, *Everything and Less: The Novel in the Age of Amazon* (Verso)

Amia Srinivasan, *The Right To Sex* (FSG)

Fiction

Joshua Cohen, *The Netanyahus* (NYRB)

Rachel Cusk, *Second Place* (FSG)

Sarah Hall, *Burntcoat* (Custom House)

Honorée Fanonne Jeffers, *The Love Songs of W.E.B. Du Bois* (Harper)

Colson Whitehead, *Harlem Shuffle* (Doubleday)

Nonfiction

Patrick Radden Keefe, *Empire of Pain: The Secret History of the Sackler Dynasty* (Doubleday)

Joshua Prager, *The Family Roe: An American Story* (Norton)

Sam Quinones, *The Least of Us: True Tales of America and Hope in the Time of Fentanyl and Meth* (Bloomsbury)

Clint Smith, *How the Word Is Passed* (Little, Brown)

Rebecca Solnit, *Orwell's Roses* (Viking)

Poetry

B.K. Fischer, *Ceive* (BOA)

Donika Kelly, *The Renunciations* (Graywolf)

Rajiv Mohabir, *Cutlish* (Four Way)

Cheswayo Mphanza, *The Rinehart Frames* (Univ. of Nebraska)

Diane Seuss, *frank: sonnets* (Graywolf)

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About the National Book Critics Circle

The National Book Critics Circle, a 501(c)3 nonprofit, was founded in 1974 at the 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 honors the best books published in the United States and bestows several other special prizes. For more information about the activities and services of the NBCC, and to learn how to join or become a supporter, visit www.bookcritics.org.

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