



For Immediate Release

Vanderbilt Department of English and Creative Writing Program Announce
Gertrude C. & Harold S. Vanderbilt Visiting Writers Series 2024-2025

Nashville, TN — July 30, 2024 — Today, the Vanderbilt Department of English and Creative Writing Program Announce the Gertrude C. & Harold S. Vanderbilt Visiting Writers Series 2024-2025. The series will feature a total of 16 award-winning authors and poets.

The Gertrude C. and Harold S. Vanderbilt Visiting Writers Series is named in honor of Vanderbilt founder Cornelius Vanderbilt's great-grandson and his wife. Each semester, the series brings nationally renowned writers to campus to read from their works and visit classes. This unique and extraordinary program gives English department students and faculty, the Vanderbilt community, and Nashville's citizens a chance to meet and talk with some of the best writers of our day.

This year's fiction authors include Edward P. Jones (MacArthur, Pulitzer), V.V. Ganeshanathan (MacDowell, *NPR* Book of the Year), Brandon Hobson (National Book Award Finalist, Pushcart), Ottessa Moshfegh (PEN/Hemingway, Pushcart), Adam Haslett (*LA Times* Book Award), and Adam Ross (Best Book of the Year; *New York Times*, *The New Yorker*).

This year's poets include Paisley Rekdal (National Book Award), Ilya Kaminsky (Guggenheim), Katie Farris (Pushcart), Gregory Pardlo (Pulitzer), and Aimee Nezhukumatathil (Pushcart, National Endowment for the Arts).

The MFA Program in Creative Writing is excited to welcome back alumni Kelsey Norris (Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction Finalist; MFA '17), Tiana Clark (Pushcart, National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, Kate Tufts Discovery Prize winner; MFA '17), and Alina Grabowski (MFA '19) whose debut novel, *Women and Children First*, was selected by Sarah Jessica Parker for her imprint SJP Lit. Of the book, Sarah Jessica Parker says, "A striking debut from a brilliant new voice. Alina Grabowski perfectly inhabits her characters, shining a light on the multidimensionality of both grief and adolescence with great humor and insight."

In celebration of National Poetry Month, we feature poet Stephanie Niu, whose book *I Would Define the Sun* is the winner of the inaugural Vanderbilt University Literary Prize, a collaboration with the Chancellor's Office, College of Arts & Science, and Department of

English. Niu is a poet and writer from Marietta, Georgia. Her work has appeared in *The Georgia Review*, *The Missouri Review*, Literary Hub, *Copper Nickel*, *Ecotone Magazine* and other publications. She holds a bachelor's degree in symbolic systems and a master's degree in computer science from Stanford University. She received a Fulbright scholarship for research on Christmas Island's labor history, through which she led youth poetry workshops and published the zine *Our Island, Our Future*. She lives in New York City.

Director of Vanderbilt's MFA Program in Creative Writing, Professor Major Jackson states, "We are honored to bring award-winning authors to campus and the city of Nashville. Their works of fiction and poetry are celebrated and treasured for their virtuosity and depth of imagination. And yet, these writers nuance thorny topics and give expression to our contemporary moment in ways that have us see anew."

Gertrude C. & Harold S. Vanderbilt Visiting Writers Series 2024-2025

Sept 12

Paisley Rekdal (Poetry)

Paisley Rekdal is the author of *Animal Eye*, *Imaginary Vessels*, *Nightingale*, and *West: A Translation*, longlisted for the 2023 National Book Award in Poetry and winner of the 2024 Kingsley Tufts Prize. Her newest works of nonfiction include a book-length essay, *The Broken Country: On Trauma, a Crime, and the Continuing Legacy of Vietnam* and *Appropriate: A Provocation*. She guest edited *Best American Poetry 2020*.

Sept 26

Ilya Kaminsky & Katie Farris (Poetry)

Ilya Kaminsky is the author of *Deaf Republic*, The New York Times' Notable Book, and *Dancing in Odessa*. He is editor of *In the Hour of War: Poems from Ukraine*, and *Dark Elderberry Branch: Poems of Marina Tsvetaeva*.

Katie Farris is the author of *Standing in the Forest of Being Alive* and *boysgirls*. She is also the author of the chapbook, *A Net to Catch My Body in its Weaving*.

October 17

Edward P. Jones (Fiction)

Edward P. Jones is the author of the short-story collections *Lost in the City* and *All Aunt Hagar's Children*, and the novel *The Known World*, which received the Pulitzer Prize in 2004.

October 31

Sugi Ganeshanathan (Fiction)

V. V. Ganeshanathan is the author of the novels *Brotherless Night*, a New York Times Editors' Choice, and an NPR Book of the Year, and *Love Marriage*.

November 14

Brandon Hobson (Fiction)

Dr. Brandon Hobson is the author of the novels, *The Removed*, *Where the Dead Sit Talking*, finalist for the National Book Award, and other books. He is an enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation Tribe of Oklahoma.

December 5

Gregory Pardlo (Poetry)

Gregory Pardlo is the author of the poetry collections *Spectral Evidence* and *Digest*, winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry. His other books include *Totem*, winner of the American Poetry Review/ Honickman Prize, and *Air Traffic*, a memoir in essays.

January 16

Aimee Nezhukumatathil (Poetry)

Aimee Nezhukumatathil is the author of the poetry collections *Oceanic*, *Lucky Fish*, *At the Drive-in Volcano*, *Miracle Fruit*, and the essay collections *Bite by Bite: Nourishments and Jamborees* and *World of Wonder*. With poet Ross Gay, she is also co-author of the chapbook *Lace & Pyrite*.

January 30

Otessa Moshfegh (Fiction)

Otessa Moshfegh is the author of four novels *My Year of Rest and Relaxation*, *Death in Her Hands*, *Lapvona* and *Eileen*, shortlisted for the National Book Critics Circle Award and the Man Booker Prize, and winner of the PEN/Hemingway Award for debut fiction.

February 13

Adam Haslett (Fiction)

Adam Haslett is the author of the novels *Mothers and Sons*, *Imagine Me Gone*, finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Award, and winner of the Los Angeles Times Book Award; *You Are Not a Stranger Here*, finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award; and *Union Atlantic*, winner of the Lambda Literary Award and shortlisted for the Commonwealth Prize.

March 20

Adam Ross (Fiction)

Adam Ross is the author of the short story collection *Ladies and Gentlemen*, and the novels *Playworld* and *Mr. Peanut*, which was selected as one of the best books of the year by *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, and *The Economist*.

April 3

Recruitment Week: Tiana Clark, Alina Grabowski, and Kelsey Norris (Fiction & Poetry)

Tiana Clark is the author of the poetry collections *Scorched Earth* and *I Can't Talk About the Trees Without the Blood*. She is the winner of the Agnes Lynch Starrett Prize.

Alina Grabowski is the author of *Women and Children First*, published by SJP Lit in 2024. She lives in Austin, Texas.

Kelsey Norris is the author of the story collection *House Gone Quiet*.

April 7

Stephanie Niu (Poetry)

Stephanie Niu is the author of *I Would Define the Sun*, inaugural winner of the inaugural Vanderbilt University Literary Prize.

The Creative Writing Program and The Gertrude C. & Harold S. Vanderbilt Visiting Writers Series are within Vanderbilt University's Department of English.

For more information about the Vanderbilt Visiting Writers Series and to sign up for event announcements, please visit the website below.

<https://as.vanderbilt.edu/english/visiting-writers-series/>