THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND LETTERS ANNOUNCES
2016 LITERATURE AWARD WINNERS

New York, March 22, 2016 – The American Academy of Arts and Letters announced today the names of 21 writers who will receive its 2016 awards in literature. The awards will be presented in New York at the Academy’s annual Ceremonial in May. The literature prizes, totaling $550,000, honor both established and emerging writers of fiction, nonfiction, drama, and poetry. The Academy’s 250 members propose candidates, and a rotating committee of writers selects winners. This year’s award committee members were John Guare, Sharon Olds, Anne Tyler, Rosanna Warren, and Joy Williams.

Arts and Letters Awards in Literature
Eight Arts and Letters Awards in Literature honor exceptional accomplishment in any genre. This year, the awards of $10,000 each will be presented to

TA-NEHISI COATES · JOSHUA FERRIS · STEPHEN ADLY GUIRGIS ·
TERRANCE HAYES · LYNN NOTTAGE · KATIE PETERSON
MARK POLIZZOTTI · SPENCER REECE

Benjamin H. Danks Award
of $20,000 given every three years to an exceptional young playwright

BRANDEN JACOBS-JENKINS

E. M. Forster Award
$20,000 to a young writer from the United Kingdom or Ireland for a stay in the United States. Award jury: Alison Lurie, Colm Tóibín.

SINÉAD MORRISSEY

Sue Kaufman Prize for First Fiction
$5000 for a work of first fiction (novel or short stories) published in 2015.

KIRSTIN VALDEZ QUADE for Night at the Fiestas

Award of Merit Medal
and $25,000 to an outstanding poet.

HENRI COLE

Katherine Anne Porter Award
of $20,000 to a prose writer.

KATHRYN DAVIS

American Academy in Rome Fellowships in Literature

John Guare Writer’s Fund Rome Prize

JACK LIVINGS

Joseph Brodsky Rome Prize

MATTHEW NEILL NULL

Rosenthal Family Foundation Award
of $10,000 to a young writer of considerable literary talent for
a work published in 2015.

ANTHONY MARRA
for *The Tsar of Love and Techno*

Mildred and Harold Strauss Livings
of $200,000 to each of two writers to enable them to devote time
exclusively to writing.

ADAM HASLET
JESMYN WARD

Harold D. Vursell Memorial Award
of $20,000 to a writer whose work merits recognition for the quality of its prose style.

RACHEL KUSHNER

Thornton Wilder Prize for Translation
of $20,000 to a practitioner, scholar, or patron who has made a
significant contribution to the art of literary translation.

JAMEY GAMBRELL

Morton Dauwen Zabel Award
of $10,000 to a fiction writer with progressive, original, and experimental tendencies.

JAMES HANNAHAM

The American Academy of Arts and Letters was established in 1898 to “foster, assist, and sustain an interest
in literature, music, and the fine arts.” Election to the Academy is considered the highest formal
recognition of artistic merit in this country. Founding members include William Merritt Chase, Kenyon
Cox, Daniel Chester French, Childe Hassam, Henry James, Theodore Roosevelt, Elihu Vedder, and
Woodrow Wilson. The Academy is currently comprised of 250 of America’s leading voices in the fields of
Art, Architecture, Literature, and Music. The Academy presents exhibitions of art, architecture, and
manuscripts, and readings and performances of new musicals. It is located in three landmark buildings
designed by McKim, Mead & White, Cass Gilbert, and Charles Pratt Huntington, on Audubon Terrace at
155 Street and Broadway, New York City.