

EMBARGOED UNTIL APRIL 21, 2016 AT 9:00 PM



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SEATTLE ARTS & LECTURES ANNOUNCES HEADLINERS FOR 2016/17 SEASON AND A MOVE BACK TO BENAROYA HALL

Literary Arts Series to return to Benaroya Hall and feature Ann Patchett, Timothy Egan, Bryan Stevenson and Helen Oyeyemi, Poetry Series to feature Rachel Zucker, Ross Gay, and Ellen Bass, 2016 WITS Anthology Book Launch Announced

SEATTLE, WA – April 21, 2016: This evening, Seattle Arts & Lectures (SAL) announced the headliners of the 2016/17 Season to a sold-out house for the Literary Arts Series event with Teju Cole. SAL's upcoming 29th season will feature familiar names and emerging new faces along with a much-anticipated move back to Benaroya Hall. "This season will feature fan favorites, a hometown hero, a powerful voice for justice, and much more," says Rebecca Hoogs, SAL's Associate Director and curator. "Last year was truly a milestone year for SAL—we sold out our Literary Arts Series for the first time ever, and presented Ta-Nehisi Coates for an important conversation on race. We look forward to our 29th season—to more milestones, to inspiring new connections, and to presenting the best writers and most critical conversations of our time." 2016/17 series subscriptions are now on sale, and single tickets and Create-Your-Own-Subscriptions will go on sale July 18.

SAL's **Literary Arts Series** presents original talks with the leading fiction and non-fiction writers of our time. SAL is thrilled to announce that this season the Literary Arts Series will officially return to its long-time home at Benaroya Hall.

The 2016/17 Literary Arts Series will begin in September with *The New York Times* bestselling author, **Ann Patchett**, author of seven novels including *Bel Canto*, and *State of Wonder*. The first 500 Literary Arts Series subscribers will receive a copy of her newest book, *Commonwealth* to be released in September. Local Seattle luminary and lifelong journalist **Timothy Egan** will continue the series in October and naturalist and memoirist **Helen Macdonald** whose book, *H is for Hawk*, topped many of this year's must-read lists, will present in February. **Ben Fountain** and **Bryan Stevenson** will visit SAL in March. Fountain's acclaimed debut novel *Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk* is a surprising story of war told on the football field; the film adaptation will be released on Veterans' Day. Stevenson's book *Just Mercy*, was named one of 2014's 10 best nonfiction books by *Time Magazine*. **Helen Oyeyemi** will close the series in April. At only 32 years old, Nigerian-born Oyeyemi is a rising literary light and author of eight books including novels, plays and her latest collection of short stories entitled, *What Is Not Yours Is Not Yours*.

The **Poetry Series** presents established and emerging poets for readings and lectures. Poetry Series events are held at the Nesholm Family Lecture Hall at McCaw Hall.

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University of Washington alumna **Ada Limón** will open the series in October. Limón is the author of four books of poetry, including *Bright Dead Things*, which was named a finalist for the 2015 National Book Award in Poetry, a finalist for the 2015 National Book Critics Circle Award, and one of the Top Ten Poetry Books of 2015 by *The New York Times*. **Rachel Zucker** is the author of nine books of poetry and prose and will join the series in November to give a lecture on poetry, confession, and ethics as part of SAL's ongoing collaboration with the Bagley Wright Lecture Series on Poetry. **Ross Gay** will follow in February 2017. Author of three volumes of poetry, his most recent book, *Catalog of Unabashed Gratitude*, won the 2015 National Book Critics Circle Award and the 2016 Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award. Prolific poet **Ellen Bass** will also join the series in February. Port Townsend-based Copper Canyon Press published her most recent book of poetry, *Like a Beggar*. **Alice Notley** will be featured in April. Notley is the author of over 25 books of poetry including the forthcoming *Certain Magical Acts*. In 2015, she was awarded the Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize. A sixth poet will be added to complete the series in the coming months.

SAL's **Writers in the Schools (WITS)** program will serve 26 public schools in school districts across the Puget Sound, including Seattle, Highline, Shoreline, and Port Townsend. WITS will also serve pediatric patients at Seattle Children's Hospital. WITS honors the writing created through this program with three annual "book-end" events, which are free and open to the public. The first of these events on Tuesday, October 11 at Benaroya Hall, will celebrate the publication of the WITS annual anthology featuring creative writing by students in last year's WITS program. Dates for the WITS Year-End Readings are to be announced.

Subscription & Single Ticket Information: 2016/17 series subscriptions are now on sale; single tickets and Create-Your-Own-Subscriptions will go on sale July 18. An **All SAL Pass** entitles the subscriber to attend all events in every series. Series subscriptions are available for the **Literary Arts Series**, **Poetry Series**, and **Women You Need To Know (WYNK) Series** (events still to be announced). Subscriptions are available at Grand Patron, Patron, General, and Student levels. Patron and Grand Patron tickets include priority seating and admission to special pre-event receptions with the authors. All subscriptions include benefits such as dining deals, parking discounts, bookstore discounts, and priority presale opportunities. Subscriptions and tickets available online at lectures.org or by phone at 206.621.2230.

Seattle Arts & Lectures' 2016/17 Season is presented by *The Seattle Times*.

About Seattle Arts & Lectures: Founded in 1987, Seattle Arts & Lectures champions the literary arts by engaging and inspiring readers and writers of all generations in the Puget Sound region. SAL's programs include the **Literary Arts Series**, **Women You Need to Know**, and **SAL Presents**, original talks by internationally renowned writers and thinkers; the **Poetry Series**, readings by established and emerging poets; and **Writers in the Schools**, an award-winning reading and writing program that places professional writers in public elementary, middle, and high schools. For more information about SAL, visit lectures.org.

Author photos available upon request.

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