



Loft Mentor Series in Poetry and Creative Prose

Mentors and Participants (2011-2012)

The Loft Literary Center received 200 entries to the 2011–2012 Loft Mentor Series in Poetry and Creative Prose, from which the preliminary judges had the difficult task of choosing 20 finalists per genre. We received 70 entries in nonfiction, 52 in poetry, and 78 in fiction.

Nonfiction mentors John Hildebrand and Dinty Moore selected **Liza Allen** of Saint Paul, **Tami Mohamed Brown** of Bloomington, **Lynne Maker Kuechle** of White Bear Lake, and **Kaethe Schwehn** of Northfield for the program. Honorable mentions are George Berhnardt of Medina and Holly Vanderhaar of Saint Paul. Finalists are Rebecca Dosch Brown, Elise Chambers, Elizabeth di Grazia, Brigid Garry, Holly Gross, Jennifer Bowen Hicks, Carla-Elaine Johnson, Elisa Korentayer, Nan Montgomery, Mark Powell, Kristine Price, Annette Schiebout, and Amber D. Stoner.

Poetry mentors Leslie Adrienne Miller and Tracy K. Smith chose poets **Rebecca Dosch Brown** and **Ann McKinley** of Minneapolis and **Alice O. Duggan** and **Jane Loechler** of Saint Paul. Honorable mention went to Nicole Borg of Wabasha and Jeff Neidt of Eden Prairie. Finalists are Jolene M. Brink, Jeffrey Burnoski, Jacey Choy, Joseph Conry, Dallas Crow, Venessa Maria Fuentes, Joan Gasper, Libby Casey Irwin, Heather G. James, Mary Kelly, Liz Minette, MaryAnn Moenck, Nan Montgomery, and Paige Riehl.

Fiction writers selected for the program by mentors Lan Samantha Chang and Marlon James are **Nona Kennedy Carlson**, **Martin Cozza**, and **Patrick Nathan**, all of Minneapolis, and **Diana Xin** of New Brighton. Mary Dunnewold of Northfield and Ruby Pediango of Edina were named honorable mention. Finalists are Michael P. Amram, Kathryn Begnaud, Nancy Cook, Deborah Copperud, Anne Guidry, Rachel Jones, Kathleen Kimball-Baker, Josh LaBau, Mindy Mejia, Cindy Christian Rogers, Nicholas Saari, and Ryan Ruff Smith.

The Loft Mentor Series in Poetry and Creative Prose is made possible through the support of the Jerome Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, and member contributions.

For more information about the Loft, the program and the mentors, as well as other opportunities for writers, please visit www.loft.org.



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2011-2012 Loft Mentor Series Winners

Liza Allen (nonfiction) has done extensive research on the Holocaust and is exploring themes of transmission of trauma in her writing. She holds a BA in English (with an emphasis in creative writing) and a MS in Rhetoric and Scientific and Technical Communication from the University of Minnesota. She was a recipient of the Academy of American Poets College Prize. For the past 12 years, she has been working as a technical writer and consultant in the computer, health and wellness fields. She has three children and lives in Saint Paul.

Tami Mohamed Brown (nonfiction) lives in Bloomington with her husband and daughter. She holds an MFA in creative writing from Hamline University and is the recipient of a Blacklock Nature Sanctuary Emerging Artist Fellowship. She has served as a mentor in Intermedia Arts' WINGS program. Her writing appears regularly in the *Minnesota Women's Press* and has also been published in *Minnesota Parent*, *Mizna*, *Colere*, and *Dust and Fire*.

Nona Kennedy Carlson (fiction) has published work in *temenos*, Central Michigan University's international literary journal, *Dust and Fire*, a women's anthology of writing and art, and *MinnPost*. She has work forthcoming in *Talking Stick*. Her short story, "Queer," received the 2011 Jonis Agee Award for Fiction. She has a BS in Geography and Environmental Studies from The University of Colorado and lives in Minneapolis with her husband, their two beautiful daughters, and two boisterous black labs.

Martin Cozza (fiction) has had fiction published in *The Missouri Review*, *Colorado Review*, *Columbia*, *Massachusetts Review*, *Carolina Quarterly* and elsewhere. His work has been included in the *Best American Fantasy* anthology. He is a graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop and has held a Yaddo residency and three Minnesota State Arts Board fellowships. He lives in Minneapolis with his wife and three children.

Rebecca Dosch Brown (poetry) lives in media res in Northeast Minneapolis with her husband, an electronic composer, and their bright son, whose name means 'sun' in Japanese. She has been a teacher of creative writing, EFL, and cultural awareness, and she has also enjoyed stints as a gardener, translator, editor, and an apprentice in modern bonsai and tile-making. She has published poems, translations, and prose in publications such as *Kyoto Journal*, *Briar Cliff Review*, *Shi to Shisou* and martists.org.

Alice O. Duggan (poetry) has published poetry in *Water~Stone Review*, *Blue Earth Review*, *Sleet Magazine*, *Puckerbrush Review*, *Plainsongs*, and *Moon Journal*. She has studied poetry with Tom Ruud, Jude Nutter, and Jim Moore. She wants the sound of plain speech in her poems, combined with humor and music.



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2011-2012 Loft Mentor Series Winners (cont.)

Lynne Maker Kuechle (nonfiction) has been an aspiring author since she wrote her first story at age 7 and an aspiring figure skater since she took her first lesson at age 11. She has a BA in English and a master's degree in business communications from the University of St. Thomas and a master's degree in liberal studies from Hamline University. She has worked in corporate and marketing communications for several organizations and has published her work in literary magazines. Lynne won the first gold medal awarded at the first U.S. Adult Figure Skating Championships in 1995. She lives with her husband, daughter, and two dogs in White Bear Lake.

Jane Loechler (poetry) is currently working as a consultant on a software design project, turning data into stories that will help shape affordable housing policy. As a visual artist her work has centered around how things work and how people fit together. She has only recently made the move toward writing poetry based on similar themes. She received her BFA from the Minneapolis College of Art and Design with a focus on sculpture and aesthetic critical theory. She lives in downtown Saint Paul.

Ann McKinley (poetry) lives next to the Mississippi River with her two children, Sam and Caroline, and their dogs. Her poems have appeared in the *Mid-American Review* and in on-line journals. She received her BA from New College of Florida and her MA from the University of Florida before migrating north and finding her spiritual home in the Twin Cities.

Patrick Nathan (fiction) is the managing editor of *Xenith*, a literary webzine, and the founder of *Mill City Bibliophile*, a blog on all things local and literary. He fell in love with literature at the University of Minnesota, where writers such as García Márquez, Saramago, and Nabokov tore him away from architecture, despite financial counseling from his family. He writes his first drafts on a 1940 LC Smith Super-Speed, which is a machine that lacks Wi-Fi.

Kaethe Schwahn (nonfiction) studied creative writing at the University of Montana and the Iowa Writers' Workshop. Her poems have appeared in journals such as *Crazyhorse*, *jubilat*, *The New Orleans Review*, and *Minnesota Review*. She has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize and has been the recipient of an Academy of American Poets Prize. She lives in Northfield with her husband and daughter.

Diana Xin (fiction) moved from China to Minnesota when she was three, but spent the past year back in Beijing. She holds bachelor's degrees in journalism and creative writing from Northwestern University. Her writing has been published in *The Alaska Quarterly Review*, and she was recipient of Northwestern University's 2008 Tri Quarterly Prize in Fiction. She enjoys yoga, traveling, and eating good food.



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2011-2012 Loft Mentors

Lan Samantha Chang is the author of the award-winning books *Hunger*, *Inheritance*, and *All Is Forgotten, Nothing Is Lost*. A 2008 Guggenheim Fellow, she lives with her husband and daughter in Iowa City, Iowa, where she is the director of the Iowa Writers' Workshop.

John Hildebrand's nonfiction has appeared in numerous magazines, including *Harper's Magazine*, *Audubon*, *Sports Illustrated*, and *The Missouri Review*. He is the author of *Mapping the Farm: The Chronicle of a Family*, *Reading the River: A Voyage Down the Yukon*, and *A Northern Front: New and Selected Essays*. He teaches at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and divides his time between home and a cabin in northern Wisconsin.

Marlon James was born in Kingston, Jamaica. His first novel, *John Crow's Devil*, was shortlisted for the Commonwealth Prize and was a finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Prize. His second novel, *The Book of Night Women*, received the 2010 Minnesota Book Award for Fiction. He is a professor of literature and creative writing at Macalester College and divides his time between Minnesota, New York, and Jamaica.

Leslie Adrienne Miller is author of five books of poetry, *The Resurrection Trade* and *Eat Quite Everything You See* from Graywolf Press, and *Yesterday Had a Man in It*, *Ungodliness*, and *Staying Up For Love* from Carnegie Mellon University Press. A sixth collection, *Y*, is forthcoming from Graywolf in spring 2012. Professor of English at the University of Saint Thomas, in Saint Paul, Minnesota, she holds a PhD from the University of Houston, an MFA from the University of Iowa Writers' Workshop, an MA from the University of Missouri, and a BA from Stephens College

Dinty W. Moore lives in Athens, Ohio, where he directs Ohio University's BA, MFA, and PhD programs in creative writing. His books include the memoir *Between Panic and Desire*, *The Accidental Buddhist*, *Toothpick Men*, *The Emperor's Virtual Clothes*, and the writing guides, *The Truth of the Matter: Art and Craft in Creative Nonfiction* and *Crafting the Personal Essay: A Guide for Writing and Publishing Creative Nonfiction*. He edits the internet journal *Brevity* and serves on the editorial board of *Creative Nonfiction* and is coordinating editor for W.W. Norton's *Best Creative Nonfiction*.

Tracy K. Smith is the author of three poetry collections: *Duende*, winner of the James Laughlin Award and the Essence Literary Award, *The Body's Question*, winner of the Cave Canem Poetry Prize, and *Life On Mars*. She is the recipient of the Rona Jaffe Foundation Writers' Award and a Whiting Writers' Award, and was a finalist for the NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literary Work. Smith is currently a protégé in the Rolex Mentor and Protégé Arts Initiative, and a member of the Creative Writing Faculty at Princeton University. She lives in Brooklyn, New York.