

2011 McKNIGHT ARTIST FELLOWSHIPS FOR WRITERS

The Loft Literary Center is pleased to announce the winners of the 2011 McKnight Artist Fellowships for Writers, Loft Awards in Creative Prose and Loft Award in Children's Literature/Older Children. Judge Pam Houston selected four winners from a pool of 100 applications. In Children's Literature, judge Arthur Levine, had 38 applications from which to chose a winner.

McKnight Artist Fellowships for Writers, Loft Award in Children's Literature/Older Children

The Winner

Heather Bouwman is the author of the middle-grade fantasy *The Remarkable & Very True Story of Lucy & Snowcap* (Marshall Cavendish, 2008). She is an associate professor in the English department at the University of Saint Thomas. Along with Swati Avasthi, Heather co-curates the Second Story reading series for children's and young adult authors at the Loft Literary Center.

Honorable mentions went to **Pete Hautman** of Golden Valley, **Tunie Munson-Benson** of Minnetonka, **Lisa M. Bolt Simons** of Faribault, and **Joan M. Wolf** of Fridley.

The Judge

Arthur A. Levine founded Arthur A. Levine Books as an imprint of Scholastic Press in 1996. Under his editorial direction, the imprint has produced more than 90 works of hardcover literary fiction and nonfiction for children, teenagers, and discerning adults. Arthur A. Levine Books works with a distinguished list of American authors and illustrators at various phases of their careers, from newcomers like Lisa Yee and Dan Santat to award-winners like Rafe Martin and Susan Shreve. They also strive to bring the best of the world's literature to the United States through the work of such famed international authors and illustrators as Astrid Lindgren, Jaclyn Moriarty, J.K. Rowling, Philip Pullman, Luis Sepúlveda, and many others.

McKnight Artist Fellowships for Writers, Loft Awards in Creative Prose

The Winners

John Colburn has an M.F.A. from the University of Minnesota and is currently employed as head of the Literary Arts Department at the Perpich Center for Arts Education and as Adjunct Faculty at Hamline University. He is editor and co-publisher at

Spout Press and a member of the improvised music collective *Astronaut Cooper's Parade*. His fiction, poetry, and essays have appeared in dozens of publications, including *Black Warrior Review*, *Fairy Tale Review*, *Spinning Jenny*, *Post Road*, and elsewhere. His first poetry chapbook, *The Lawrence Welk Diaries*, was published by WinteRed Press in 2006. He has been awarded a Jerome Foundation Travel and Study Grant, a SASE/Jerome Award, two Minnesota State Arts Board Fellowships, an Outstanding Teacher Award and an Academy of American Poets Prize.

Jessica Roeder lives in Duluth. She has published stories, poems, and essays in journals including *The Threepenny Review*, *Third Coast*, *Narrative*, *Alaska Quarterly*, and elsewhere. Her fiction has earned her a Pushcart Prize, a fellowship at Writers at Work, and a Loft-McKnight Award in Creative Prose. She holds an M.F.A. from the University of Florida and teaches online for Lighthouse Writers Workshop in Denver.

Ethan Rutherford's fiction has appeared in *Ploughshares*, *American Short Fiction*, *Esopus*, the *New York Tyrant*, and in the anthologies *Fiction on a Stick: Stories by Writers from Minnesota* and *The Best American Short Stories 2009*. His work has received special mention in two *Pushcart Prize* anthologies (XXXIII and XXXIV). He works in Minneapolis, where he has lived since 2006.

Dominic Saucedo, a native of Los Angeles, now happily resides in Minneapolis. He has received fellowships from the Minnesota State Arts Board, SASE/Jerome Foundation, and The Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown. His most recent work can be found in *Cerise Press*, *Paper Darts*, *Breakwater Review* and *Fiction on a Stick: Stories by Writers from Minnesota* (Milkweed Editions, 2009). A portion of his novel-in-progress was nominated in 2010 for *Best American Short Stories*. He teaches writing at Minneapolis Community and Technical College.

Honorable mentions went to **Alicia Conroy** of Minneapolis, **Nick Healy** of Mankato, and **N.M. Kelby** and **Sarah Stonich**, both of Minneapolis.

The Judge

Pam Houston is the author of two collections of short stories, *Cowboys Are My Weakness* (W. W. Norton), which was the winner of the 1993 Western States Book Award and has been translated into nine languages, and *Waltzing the Cat* (W. W. Norton) which won the Willa Award for Contemporary Fiction. Her novel *Sight Hound* was published by W. W. Norton in 2005. A collection of essays, *A Little More About Me*, was published by W.W. Norton in the fall of 1999.

Her stories have been selected for the *Best American Short Stories*, the *O. Henry Awards*, the Pushcart Prize, and the *Best American Short Stories of the Century*.

In 2001 she completed a stage play called *Tracking the Pleiades* which was produced by the Creede Repertory Theater. Houston has edited a collection of fiction, nonfiction and

poetry for Ecco Press called *Women on Hunting*, and written the text for a book of photographs called *Men Before Ten A.M.* (Beyond Words, 1996).

Houston divides her time between her ranch in Colorado and the University of California at Davis, where she is director of the Creative Writing Program. She has appeared on *CBS Sunday Morning* from time to time doing literary essays on the wilderness, as well as a guest on the *Oprah Winfrey Show*.