

The Program in Creative Writing presents

ALTHEA WARD CLARK W'21 READING SERIES 2015-16

Wednesday, September 30

HODDER FELLOWS:
Natalie Diaz
Phil Klay

Wednesday, October 14

Jhumpa Lahiri
Mary Szybist

Wednesday, November 18

Adam Johnson
Dorianne Laux

Wednesday, December 16

Student Readings

Wednesday, February 10

Marlon James
Claudia Rankine

.....
Tuesday, October 27

Marie Howe delivers the
Theodore H. Holmes '51
and Bernice Holmes Lecture

.....
**All readings take place at 4:30 p.m. at the Berlind
Theatre, McCarter Theatre Center unless noted otherwise.**
Free and open to the public.

For more about the Program in Creative Writing visit
arts.princeton.edu

Wednesday, March 9

Edwidge Danticat
Robert Hass

Wednesday, April 6

Ciaran Berry
Nell Zink

Wednesday, April 27

Student Readings
Chancellor Green Rotunda

Monday, May 2

Thesis Readings in Poetry,
Screenwriting, and Translation
Prospect House

Wednesday, May 4

Thesis Readings in Fiction
Prospect House



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Althea Ward Clark W '21 Reading SERIES

**WEDNESDAY,
MARCH 9, 2016**

Reading by:

Edwidge Danticat

Robert Hass



The Berlind Theatre
McCarter Theatre Center

EDWIDGE DANTICAT

Introduced by Sigrid Nunez

Edwidge Danticat was born on January 19, 1969, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Her parents, fleeing the oppressive regimes of François Duvalier and son Jean-Claude, were able to settle in Brooklyn, New York, while Danticat and younger sibling André had to remain behind. After years of correspondence, Danticat and her brother were able to come to the States, being reunited with their parents and meeting two new siblings they didn't know. Danticat started to hone her craft as a writer during her adolescence. Though her parents initially wanted her to focus on medicine, Danticat went on to study French literature at Barnard College in Manhattan, later earning a creative writing graduate degree from Brown University in 1993. Her former master's thesis was released in 1994 as the debut novel *Breath, Eyes, Memory*, following a girl's journey from Haiti to the U.S. The work earned great acclaim and was eventually selected as an official book club pick by Oprah Winfrey in 1998.

Edwidge Danticat is the author of several books, including *Krik? Krak!*, a National Book Award finalist, *The Farming of Bones*, *The Dew Breaker*, *Create Dangerously*, and *Claire of the Sea Light*. She is also the editor of *The Butterfly™'s Way: Voices from the Haitian Diaspora in the United States*, *Best American Essays 2011*, *Haiti Noir* and *Haiti Noir 2*. She has written four books for young adults and children, *Anacaona*, *Behind the Mountains*, *Eight Days*, *The Last Mapou*, as well as a travel narrative, *After the Dance*. Her memoir, *Brother, I'm Dying*, was a 2007 finalist for the National Book Award and a 2008 winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award for autobiography. She is a 2009 MacArthur fellow. Her most recent books are *Mama's Nightingale*, a picture book, and *Untwine*, a young adult novel.



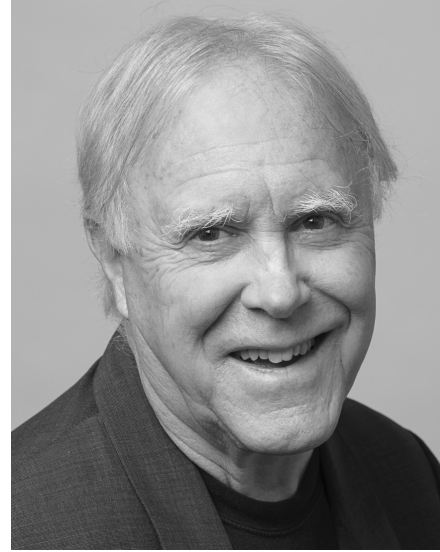
Her short stories have appeared in over 25 periodicals and have been anthologized several times. Her work has been translated into numerous other languages, including Japanese, French, Korean, German, Italian, Spanish, and Swedish.

Danticat is a strong advocate for issues affecting Haitians abroad and at home. In 2009, she lent her voice and words to *Poto Mitan: Haitian Women Pillars of the Global Economy*, a documentary about the impact of globalization on five women from different generations.

"She has wound the fabric of Haitian life into her work and made it accessible to a wide audience of Americans and other outsiders. Through her 'made up' stories, she has brought Haiti to life for countless readers who otherwise would have understood nothing. No matter her geographic and temporal distance from these, Danticat writes about them with the immediacy of love." – New York Times

ROBERT HASS

Introduced by Paul Muldoon



Robert Hass is, first of all, a poet of great eloquence, clarity, and force, whose work is rooted in the landscapes of his native Northern California. Widely read and much honored, he has brought the kind of energy in his poetry to his work as an essayist, translator, and activist on behalf of poetry, literacy, and the environment. Most notably, in his tenure as United States Poet Laureate, Robert Hass spent two years battling American illiteracy, armed with the mantra, "imagination makes communities." He crisscrossed the country speaking at Rotary Club meetings, raising money to organize conferences such as "Watershed," which brought together noted novelists, poets, and storytellers to talk about writing, nature, and community.

Robert Hass has published many books of poetry including *Field Guide*, *Praise*, *Human Wishes*, and *Sun Under Wood*, as well as a book of essays on poetry, *Twentieth Century Pleasures*. Hass translated many of the works of Nobel Prize-winning Polish poet, Czesław Miłosz, and he edited *Selected Poems*:

1954-1986 by Tomas Tranströmer; *The Essential Haiku: Versions of Bashō, Buson, and Issa*; *Poet's Choice: Poems for Everyday Life*; and *Modernist Women Poets: An Anthology* (with Paul Ebenkamp). His essay collection *Now & Then*, which includes his Washington Post articles, was published in April 2007. As US Poet Laureate (1995-1997), his deep commitment to environmental issues led him to found River of Words (ROW), an organization that promotes environmental and arts education in affiliation with the Library of Congress Center for the Book. Hass is chairman of ROW's board of directors, and judges their annual international environmental poetry and art contest for youth. He is also a board member of International Rivers Network. Robert Hass was chosen as Educator of the Year by the North American Association on Environmental Education and, in 2005, elected to the American Academy of Arts & Sciences. His collection of poems entitled *Time and Materials* won both the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize. His most recent volume of poetry is *The Apple Trees at Olema: New and Selected Poems*. His book of essays, *What Light Can Do: Essays on Art, Imagination, and the Natural World*, is the recipient of the PEN/Diamonstein-Spielvogel Award for the Art of the Essay. His newest book is *The Poetic Species: A Conversation with Edward O. Wilson and Robert Hass*. His next book will be essays exploring poetic form titled *A Little Book on Form: An Exploration Into the Formal Imagination of Poetry* (Fall 2016, HarperCollins).

Awarded the MacArthur "Genius" Fellowship, twice the National Book Critics' Circle Award (in 1984 and 1997), the Yale Series of Younger Poets in 1973, and the 2014 Wallace Stevens Award. Robert Hass is a professor of English at UC Berkeley.

"Hass has significantly broadened the role of poet laureate to include not only his love for poetry but also his concern for literacy and his passion for environmentalism."
– Los Angeles Times