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December 14, 2017

**Lewis Center for the Arts at Princeton announces**

**five Hodder Fellows for 2018-2019**

***Fellowships are awarded to Martyna Majok, Mario Moore, Okwui Okpokwasili, Jacob Shores-Argüello, and Lauren Yee***



Photos and (credits) – Martyna Majok (by Brian McConkey), Mario Moore (by Justin Millhouse), Okwui Okpokwasili (courtesy of Okwui Okpokwasili), Jacob Shores-Argüello (courtesy of Jacob Shores-Argüello) and Lauren Yee (by Joey Yee)

(Princeton, NJ) The Lewis Center for the Arts at Princeton University has announced the selection of five Mary MacKall Gwinn Hodder Fellows for the 2018-2019 academic year. Martyna Majok, Mario Moore, Okwui Okpokwasili, Jacob Shores-Argüello, and Lauren Yee are this year’s recipients of the Hodder Fellowship, created to provide artists and humanists in the early stages of their careers an opportunity to undertake significant new work.

In making the announcement, Michael Cadden, chair of the Lewis Center, said, “Mrs. Hodder recognized the need for what she called ‘studious leisure’ to give people the time they need to tackle major projects. Her model was John Milton’s father-in-law, who underwrote the research necessary to the creation of *Paradise Lost*. In the University’s role as a patron of the arts, we’re happy to welcome these five talented artists to the Princeton community.”

Hodder Fellows may be writers, composers, choreographers, visual artists, performance artists, or other kinds of artists or humanists who have, as the program outlines, "much more than ordinary intellectual and literary gifts.” Artists from anywhere may apply in the early fall each year for the following academic year. Past Hodder Fellows have included poet Michael Dickman, novelist Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, playwright Will Eno, choreographer Nora Chipamurie, and composer and lyricist Michael Friedman.

**Martyna Majok** has presented plays at Williamstown Theatre Festival, Manhattan Theatre Club, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Rattlestick Playwrights Theatre, WP Theatre, and Ensemble Studio Theatre, among others. Her awards include the Dramatists Guild's Lanford Wilson Award, the Lilly Award’s Stacey Mindich Prize, the Helen Merrill Emerging Playwright Award, the Charles MacArthur Award for Outstanding Original New Play at the Helen Hayes Awards, the Ashland New Plays Festival Women’s Invitational Prize, the Kennedy Center's Jean Kennedy Smith Award, the David Calicchio Emerging American Playwright Prize, a New York Theatre Workshop 2050 Fellowship, the Global Age Project Prize, and the National New Play Network (NNPN)/Smith Prize for Political Playwriting. She has received commissions from Lincoln Center, the Bush Theatre in London, the Geffen Playhouse, La Jolla Playhouse, South Coast Rep, and Manhattan Theatre Club. She received her B.A. from the University of Chicago and her M.F.A. from the Yale School of Drama and attended Juilliard. Majok was a 2012-2013 NNPN Playwright-in-Residence and the 2015-2016 PoNY Fellow at the Lark Play Development Center. During her fellowship period, she will be working on the libretto and lyrics for a musical about Chernobyl.

**Mario Moore** is a Detroit native, currently residing in New York City. He received a B.F.A. in Illustration from the College for Creative Studies (2009) and an M.F.A. in Painting from the Yale School of Art (2013). He has participated as an artist-in-residence at Knox College, The Fountainhead, and the Albers Foundation. His work has been featured in *The* *New York Times* and in multiple exhibitions, including the Charles H. Wright Museum, George N’Namdi Center for Contemporary Art, and the Detroit Institute of Arts. He has had solo exhibitions at Winston-Salem State University’s Diggs Gallery and The Urban Institute of Contemporary Art. His work was also included in the *Studio Visit* Volume 31 (2015) and the Studio Museum in Harlem’s catalog, *Speaking of People: Ebony, Jet and Contemporary Art* (2014). During his time as a Hodder Fellow he plans on creating portraits and large paintings of African American men and blue-collar workers in and around the Princeton campus.

**Okwui Okpokwasili** is a Brooklyn-based writer, performer and choreographer. With collaborator Peter Born, Okpokwasili creates multidisciplinary projects. Her New York productions include *Pent-Up: A Revenge Dance,* recipient of a 2010 New York Dance and Performance “Bessie” Award for Outstanding Production; *Bronx Gothic*, awarded a 2014 “Bessie”; and *Poor People’s TV Room.* Okpokwasili frequently collaborates with award-winning director Ralph Lemon. Residencies and awards include Maggie Allesee National Center for Choreography (MANCC) in 2012 and 2016, New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA) Fellowship in Choreography (2013), Lower Manhattan Cultural Council’s Extended Life Program (2014-15), The Foundation for Contemporary Arts’ Artist Grants in Dance (2014), a Creative Capital grant (2016), New England Foundation for the Arts, and National Dance Project. She was a Randjelovic/Stryker Commissioned Artist at New York Live Arts from 2015-2017. During her fellowship year, she will be working on design of a rigorous and formal container for a collective song of grievance and grief that serves as a ritual of remembering and reconstitution. The piece is inspired by the traditional practice of women’s resistance movements in southeastern Nigeria called “sitting on a Man’s Head”.

**Jacob Shores-Argüello** is a Costa Rican-American poet and prose writer. He is the recipient of a Fulbright Fellowship, the Dzanc Books ILP International Literature Award, a Fine Arts Work Center Fellowship in Provincetown, the Djerassi Resident Artist’s Fellowship, and the Amy Clampitt residency in Lenox, Massachusetts. His second book, *Paraíso,* was selected for the inaugural CantoMundo Poetry Prize. His work appears in *The New Yorker, Poetry,*and*The Oxford American.*During his fellowship year he will work on a mixed genre piece focusing on cultural symbols, borders, and climate.

**Lauren Yee's** play *King of the Yees* premiered this past season at The Goodman Theatre, Center Theatre Group, ACT Theatre, and Canada's National Arts Centre. Upcoming productions include *Cambodian Rock Band* at South Coast Rep with music by Dengue Fever and *The Great Leap* at Denver Center, Seattle Rep, and Atlantic Theatre Company. Recent honors included the Kesselring Prize, the Francesca Primus Prize, and a *New York Times* Critic's Pick for her play *In a Word*. She is a member of the Ma-Yi Writers' Lab and a Playwrights Realm alumni playwright. Her current commissions include Geffen Playhouse, La Jolla Playhouse, Lincoln Center/LCT3, Mixed Blood, Portland Center Stage, and Trinity Rep. Yee received her B.A. from Yale University and her M.F.A. from University of California San Diego. During her fellowship year, she plans to work on several projects, including a new comedy about lost young men struggling towards adulthood in Russia after the fall of Communism.

In addition to creating new work, Hodder Fellows may engage in lectures, readings, performances, exhibitions and other events at the Lewis Center for the Arts, most of which are free and open to the public.

To learn more about the Hodder Fellows, the Lewis Center for the Arts, and the more than 100 public performances, exhibitions, readings, screenings, concerts and lectures presented each year, most of them free, visit [arts.princeton.edu](http://www.arts.princeton.edu).

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