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**Princeton University’s Lewis Center for the Arts selects Poet Jenny Xie for Holmes National Poetry Prize**



Photo caption: Award-winning writer and Princeton alumna Jenny Xie, recipient of the Holmes National Poetry Prize from Princeton University’s Program in Creative Writing

Photo credit: Teresa Mathew

(Princeton, NJ) Poet and Princeton alumna Jenny Xie has been selected as the latest recipient of the Theodore H. Holmes ’51 and Bernice Holmes National Poetry Prize awarded by the Lewis Center for the Arts’ Program in Creative Writing at Princeton University.

The Holmes National Poetry Prize was established in memory of Princeton 1951 alumnus Theodore H. Holmes and is presented each year to a poet of special merit as selected by the faculty of the Creative Writing Program, which includes writers Jeffrey Eugenides, Jhumpa Lahiri, Yiyun Li, Paul Muldoon, James Richardson, Tracy K. Smith, Kirstin Valdez Quade, and Susan Wheeler. The award, currently carrying a prize of $5,000, was first made to Mark Doty in 2011 and has since also been awarded to Evie Shockley, Natalie Diaz, Matt Rasmussen, Eduardo Corral, and Claudia Rankine.

"To say I'm humbled and moved to receive the Theodore H. Holmes and Bernice Holmes National Poetry Prize is a vast understatement—as would be any superlative I could offer here," said Xie. "I'm very honored to be awarded a prize from those who did so much to shape who I am both on the page and off as a reader, a writer, and a mind. I owe an unpayable debt of gratitude to my professors in the Creative Writing Program at Princeton, and to be recognized by the Holmes Prize is a great joy and deeply meaningful to me in manifold ways."

Xie is the author of *Eye Level* (Graywolf Press, 2018), recipient of the Walt Whitman Award of the Academy of American Poets, and *Nowhere to Arrive* (Northwestern University Press, 2017), recipient of the Drinking Gourd Prize. She holds a B.A. from Princeton University, Class of 2008, and an M.F.A. from New York University's Creative Writing Program, and she has received fellowships and support from Kundiman, the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, Bread Loaf, the Elizabeth George Foundation, and Poets & Writers. She teaches at New York University.

On April 27, Xie read at Princeton along with six seniors in the Creative Writing Program through a series hosted by the seniors at Labyrinth Books. The C. K. Williams Reading Series presents a public showcase for the work of the thesis students and gives the senior class the opportunity to read with and learn from established writers whom they admire.

“Jenny Xie is a poet of keen observation, quiet wisdom, and astounding lyric revelation,” notes Tracy K. Smith, Director of the Program in Creative Writing and current U.S. Poet Laureate. “It has been particularly meaningful to those of us who were once her professors to witness her mature work make its entry into the world. We feel a deep sense of pride and awe at the poet she has become.”

To learn more about the Lewis Center for the Arts and the Program in Creative Writing, visit [arts](http://www.princeton.edu/arts).princeton.edu.

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