

## NEWS RELEASE

May 14, 2012

Contact: Sonia Lee  
(650) 736-9538, [sonialee@stanford.edu](mailto:sonialee@stanford.edu)

### Shortlist Announced for 2012 William Saroyan International Prize for Writing

Stanford University Libraries announced today the shortlist for the fifth William Saroyan International Prize for Writing (Saroyan Prize).

Non-Fiction		Fiction	
Black Elephants by Karol Nielsen	The Chimps of Fauna Sanctuary by Andrew Westoll	Bear Down, Bear North by Melinda Moustakis	The Dance Boots by Linda LeGarde Grover
Confessions of a Left-Handed Man by Peter Selgin	Family of Shadows by Garin K. Hovannisian	Dog-Heart by Diana McCaulay	East of the West by Miroslav Penkov
The Good Daughter by Jasmin Darznik	Pulphead by John Jeremiah Sullivan	The Free World by David Bezmozgis	The Gendarme by Mark T. Mustian
Rattlesnake Daddy by Brent Spencer	Solacers by Arion Golmakani	Leaving the Atocha Station by Ben Lerner	Lunch Bucket Paradise by Fred Setterberg
The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating by Elisabeth Tova Bailey	Tales from a Mountain City by Quynh Dao	The Madonnas of Echo Park by Brando Skyhorse	Orientation by Daniel Orozco
The Tenth Parallel by Eliza Griswold	Under Surge, Under Siege by Ellis Anderson	Shards by Ismet Prcic	Skippy Dies by Paul Murray
		Standing at the Crossroads by Charles Davis	The Submission by Amy Waldman
		This Is Not Your City by Caitlin Horrocks	

Intended to encourage new or emerging writers and honor the Saroyan literary legacy of originality, vitality and stylistic innovation, the Saroyan Prize recognizes newly published works of both fiction and non-fiction. A prize of \$5,000 will be awarded in each category. Winners will be announced this summer.

This year's distinguished judging panel for fiction consists of award-winning authors Minal Hajratwala and Elizabeth McKenzie; as well as Professor Patrick Hunt. The non-fiction panel includes Keith Devlin, Executive Director at Stanford University's Center for the Study of Language and Information; Fritz Maytag, legendary brewer, distiller and wine maker; and Hank

Saroyan, writer, performer, and nephew of William Saroyan. More information on our judges can be found at <http://library.stanford.edu/saroyan/judges.html>.

Literary fiction, including novels, short story collections, and drama, are eligible for the Saroyan Fiction Prize. Literary non-fiction of any length is eligible for the Saroyan Non-fiction Prize, most particularly writing in the Saroyan tradition: memoirs, portraits and excursions into neighborhood and community. Entries in either category are limited to English language publications that are available for individual purchase by the general public.

"Stanford is thrilled once again to honor the literary legacy of William Saroyan by awarding The William Saroyan International Prize for Writing," said Michael A. Keller, Stanford University Librarian. "However, the prize not only allows us to recognize the talents of an author whose archive we are pleased to hold but as well to engage with new authors, whose works are often found to be of wide interest and significance. In addition, Stanford gets another opportunity to engage with a remarkable team of alumni who serve both on our judging panel and as volunteer reviewers."

The Saroyan Prize was last awarded in 2010, when the fiction prize went to Rivka Galchen for her novel *Atmospheric Disturbances* (Picador, 2009) and the non-fiction prize went to Linda Himmelstein for *The King of Vodka* (HarperBusiness, 2009). Other notable winners include Jonathan Safran Foer in 2003 for his novel *Everything is Illuminated* (Houghton Mifflin, 2002). George Hagen in 2005 for his novel *The Laments* (Random House, 2004), and Kiyoko Sato in 2008 for *Dandelion Through the Crack* (Willow Valley Press, 2007).

William Saroyan, an American writer and playwright, is a Pulitzer Prize and Academy Award winner best known for his short stories about humorous experiences of immigrant families and children in California. Much of Saroyan's other work is clearly autobiographical, although similar in style and technique to fiction. Saroyan was the fourth child of Armenian immigrants. He battled his way through poverty and rose to literary prominence in the early 1930s when national magazines began publishing his short stories, such as *The Daring Young Man On The Flying Trapeze*, *My Name Is Aram*, *Inhale & Exhale*, *Three Times Three*, and *Peace, It's Wonderful*. Saroyan soon moved on to writing plays for Broadway and screenplays for Hollywood, including: *My Heart's in the Highlands*, *The Time of Your Life*, *The Beautiful People*, and *The Human Comedy*.

###

Stanford University Libraries & Academic Information Resources supports the teaching, learning and research mandates of the University through delivery of bibliographic and other information resources and services to faculty, students and staff. It is tackling the challenges of the digital age while continuing the development, preservation and conservation of its extensive print, media and manuscript collections.

The William Saroyan Foundation was founded by the author on December 30, 1966 and remains active under a Board of Trustees. Commencing in 1990, the Trustees set a goal of bringing together into one single archive his entire literary estate. A decision was finally made by the

Trustees to offer Stanford University the assembled Saroyan Literary Collection with provisions that would safeguard in perpetuity one of the rare treasure troves in American literature, carrying on the legacy of Fresno, California's own native son, William Saroyan.

# # #

Link:

William Saroyan International Prize for Writing homepage:  
<http://library.stanford.edu/saroyan/>