

2020 AWP Conference & Bookfair
March 4 -7, 2020, **San Antonio, Texas**
Henry B. González Convention Center

Featured Events

Aimee Liu and Ellen Meeropol in Conversation with Kristen Young, Sponsored by Red Hen Press

Aimee Liu, Ellen Meeropol, Kristen Millares Young

Thursday, March 5, 12:10 p.m. to 1:25 p.m.

Lila Cockrell Theatre, Henry B. González Center, Street Level

Three powerful female authors read their work and discuss their shared themes of families torn apart by history and war. Each work quests to find lost siblings and daughters and sons, each story a heartwrenching tale of the strength of family against life's cruel obstacles. These three women discuss the importance and necessity of telling these stories, and the impact these stories have on our lives right now, in the real world.

10 Years of CantoMundo: Founders Faculty and Fellows

Rigoberto González, Malcolm Friend, Celeste Guzmán Mendoza, Deborah Paredes

Thursday, March 5, 1:45 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Lila Cockrell Theatre, Henry B. González Center, Street Level

Join CantoMundo for a discussion on contemporary Latinx letters, the history of CantoMundo, and what's ahead for us. Each poet will also do a short reading.

A Reading & Conversation with Ambassador Rick Barton, Alex Deghan, & Lola Shoneyin, Sponsored by AWP

Amb. Rick Barton, Alex Deghan, Lola Shoneyin

Friday, March 6, 10:35 a.m. to 11:50 a.m.

Lila Cockrell Theatre, Henry B. González Center, Street Level

This event will feature a moderated discussion with authors of recent books related to international development. Many in the international development world have lived and traveled extensively, engaged with people from all parts of the world and in a broad range of situations, have encountered countless challenges, witnessed success and failure, and learned from it all. And some have been able to corral their experiences, insights, and ideas into books. Our panel of authors will look at their varied experiences and stories, and will feature Amb. Rick Barton, author of *Peace Works: America's Unifying Role in a Turbulent World*, Alex Deghan, author of *The Snow Leopard Project and other Adventures in Warzone Conservation*, and Lola Shoneyin, author of *The Secret Lives of Baba Segi's Wives*.

A Reading & Conversation with Ada Calhoun, Sponsored by Grove/Atlantic & Seattle Arts and Lectures

Ada Calhoun, Kristen Millares Young

Friday, March 6, 12:10 p.m. to 1:25 p.m.
Lila Cockrell Theatre, Henry B. González Center, Street Level

Ada Calhoun will read from her forthcoming novel and will be interviewed by Kristen Millares Young. Ada Calhoun is the author of the memoir *Wedding Toasts I'll Never Give*, named an Amazon Book of the Month and one of the top ten memoirs of 2017 by *W* magazine; and the history *St. Marks Is Dead*, one of the best books of 2015, according to *Kirkus* and the *Boston Globe*. She has collaborated on several *New York Times* bestsellers and freelanced for the *New York Times*, *New York*, and *The New Republic*.

NBCC Presents: Louise Erdrich

Louise Erdrich, Marion Winik
Friday, March 6, 3:20 p.m. to 4:35 p.m.
Lila Cockrell Theatre, Henry B. González Center, Street Level

National Book Critics Circle honored novelist Louise Erdrich will read from her work and talk with NBCC Treasurer Marion Winik about inspiration, research, awards (Erdrich has also won a National Book Award), evolving forms, the unique challenges of writing in these times, the imaginative process that shapes their work. A master class in the art of fiction.

My Heart Is Not Blind: On Blindness and Perception, Sponsored by Trinity University

Michael Nye, Mario Aguirre, Larry Johnson, Natalie Watkins
Saturday, March 7, 10:35 a.m. to 11:50 a.m.
Lila Cockrell Theatre, Henry B. González Center, Street Level

Trinity University presents *My Heart Is Not Blind: On Blindness and Perception*. Vision loss and the broader idea of perception is something we struggle to understand. Its causes range from genetic predispositions to disease and external circumstances such as accidents or violence. Michael Nye has photographed visually impaired people who differ not only in their particular conditions and losses but also in their cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds—also affording them the opportunity to tell their deeply moving and enlightening personal stories. Taken as a whole, their accounts are bound by a common theme of resilience and empowerment. Moderated by Michael Nye with a panel discussion including participants from the book. This event coincides with an exhibit of the photos and audio from the project on the AWP Bookfair floor.

Macondo and Gemini Ink: A Celebration of the Alebrijes of San Antonio

Dr. Norma Cantú, Luis J. Rodriguez, John Phillip Santos, Liliana Valenzuela, Gregg Barrios
Saturday, March 7, 3:20 p.m. to 4:35 p.m.
Lila Cockrell Theatre, Henry B. González Center, Street Level

With a spotlight on the Macondo Writers Workshop, founded by Sandra Cisneros, Gemini Ink presents a literary history that is uniquely San Antonio. This reading features groundbreaking multicultural, Latinx voices who have made significant contributions to contemporary letters. Multi-instrumentalists at heart, these Macondistas have produced

genre-bending works, and, like the alebrijes of Mexican folk art tradition, walk between worlds of arts, activism, and academia to promote compassion.

Laureates for the Pueblo on a River, Sponsored by Gemini Ink & the City of San Antonio

Jenny Browne, Octavio Quintanilla, Carmen Tafolla, Jim LaVilla-Havelin

Saturday, March 7, 8:30 p.m. to 9:45 p.m.

Lila Cockrell Theatre, Henry B. González Center, Street Level

In 2012, San Antonio became the first major city in Texas to establish a poet laureate program. This panel and reading will convene four award-winning San Antonio poets laureate to discuss the unique platform the laureateship offered them for impactful community outreach, their goals as poet laureate, the challenges and breakthroughs they experienced in engaging poetry in public spaces, and their continued literary activism in the community after their term. Each poet will also read one poem.