

Association of Writers & Writing Programs

PRESS RELEASE Association of Writers & Writing Programs Contact: Cynthia Sherman, Executive Director 240-696-7700 cynthia@awpwriter.org

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Association of Writers & Writing Programs and Bookshop.org Announce Partnership

**Riverdale Park, MD**— AWP is delighted to announce a new partnership with the online bookseller Bookshop.org. Bookshop.org is a socially-conscious bookseller dedicating a portion of profits to supporting local, independent bookstores, authors, and publications. In its first year, Bookshop.org is on track to capture over 1 percent of Amazon's market share in the US for online book sales. Ten percent of every sale supports independent booksellers via a profit pool that is distributed to stores every 6 months.

This partnership is very important to help struggling brick-and-mortar stores survive, including the beloved indie bookstores so important to our community. Authors, too, are struggling after the cancellation of launch parties, book tours, and other promotional events in the wake of the pandemic. AWP reached out to Bookshop.org in an effort to support both authors and bookstores in promoting and selling books. By using Bookshop.org, you are supporting these authors by ordering directly from local booksellers. You can also support AWP by purchasing books through the <u>AWP</u> <u>Bookshop.org affiliate page</u>, in which case 10 percent of all your book purchases will benefit AWP's programs and services. Books listed are chosen from Virtual AWP programming, the upcoming annual AWP Conference & Bookfair, and the newly-updated <u>Bookshelf</u> featuring books by members on the AWP website.

This partnership extends to the Annual Conference & Bookfair, where Bookshop.org is the official bookseller and offers bookfair exhibitors a greater commission on sales through their individual affiliate webpages via Bookshop.org.

We encourage you to consider how the dollars you spend on books can benefit our whole literary ecosystem, from independent bookstores to organizations like AWP who serve writers, makers, and educators of the literary arts. These are hard times, and by finding new ways to support each other, we will make it through. Join the movement and use your book dollars to keep the lights on for your local small presses, journals, and bookstores. As a community of book lovers, we have the power to sustain the organizations and publications we care about.

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