

How to Win a Book or Chapbook Contest

March 25, 2022 12:10 p.m. Room AB119 Convention Center Philadelphia

Panel: “How to Win a Book or Chapbook Contest”

Event Description:

Many writers have completed a manuscript of prose or poetry and are ready to publish their book. However, the traditional agent-to-editor route may not be available. This panel discussion will provide advice on finding a suitable book contest and giving your manuscript the best chance of success. Past winners of book and chapbook contests will share their experience and knowledge. Also, a publisher of a small press that holds annual poetry and fiction contests will tell the inside story.

Statement of Merit:

Serious writers know that publishing a book is a necessary part of a literary career. But many books do not find a home in the commercial market. Writers of literary work have another option—publishing with a smaller, respected press via a book contest. Often, runner-up books, in addition to the winner, are published. This panel of prose and poetry book-contest winners will offer practical advice for choosing an appropriate contest and giving a manuscript its best chance of success.

Panelist Biographies

Joseph J. Capista is the author of *Intrusive Beauty*, selected for Ohio University Press’s 2018 Hollis Summers Poetry Prize. He has received awards from the NEH, the Maryland State Arts Council, Sewanee, and Bread Loaf. He teaches at Towson University and lives with his family in Baltimore.

Christina Chiu is the winner of the 2040 Books' James Alan McPherson Award and the Kirkus Best Books of 2020. She is the author of *Beauty and Troublemaker and Other Saints*. Her work has appeared in *Tin House*, *Publisher's Weekly*, *Electric Literature*, *NextTribe*. She is a founder AAWW.

Cecilia Martinez-Gil has published two full-length poetry collections, “a fix of ink,” the multi-award-winning “Psaltery and Serpentes,” and she co-wrote the award-winning experimental video “Itinerarios.” She publishes poetry and journalism, teaches English and Literature, and has four masters.

Robert L. Giron, poet/writer/editor, has won numerous awards for his own writing. As Gival Press editor/publisher, he runs annual contests for fiction and poetry; these 100+ books have gone on to win over 70 national and international awards since the literary press was established in 1998.

Thaddeus Rutkowski (moderator) is author of seven books, most recently *Tricks of Light*, a poetry collection. His novel *Haywire* won an award from the Asian American Writers' Workshop. He teaches at Medgar Evers and received a fiction writing fellowship from the New York Foundation for the Arts.

Audience Q & A