

OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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WINNERS OF ASIAN AMERICAN LITERARY AWARD ANNOUNCED

—Winners to be honored at **PAGE TURNER: The Third Annual Asian American Literary Festival (10/29)**, featuring literary stars **Jessica Hagedorn, Junot Díaz, Amitav Ghosh, Kimiko Hahn and many others** —

NEW YORK, October 26, 2011- [the Asian American Writers' Workshop](http://www.asianamericanwritersworkshop.org) announced the winners of the Fourteenth Annual Asian American Literary Awards, the highest literary honor for writers of Asian American descent. The winners are **Yiyun Li** in fiction, **Kimiko Hahn** in poetry, and **Amitava Kumar** in nonfiction. Brief award citations to the winners and finalists are available at <http://www.pageturnerfest.org/awards>.

Winners Kimiko Hahn and Amitava Kumar and finalists Molly Gaudry and Rahna Reiko Rizzuto will read at [PAGE TURNER 2011: The Third Annual Asian American Literary Festival](http://www.pageturnerfest.org) on October 29, 2011 from 11AM-7PM at powerHouse arena and Melville House in Brooklyn, NY. Featured writers include **Jessica Hagedorn, Junot Díaz, Amitav Ghosh, Min Jin Lee, Jayne Anne Phillips, Teju Cole, Amitava Kumar, Kimiko Hahn, Hari Kunzru**, and many more. The literary awards will be presented at the AFTERWORD party immediately after the festival at 8PM at Verso Press.

The Asian American Literary Award in Fiction was awarded to **Yiyun Li** for her short story collection entitled *Gold Boy, Emerald Girl* (Random House). The award for fiction was judged by Whiting Writers' Award winner Nami Mun, DSC Award finalist Tania James, and novelist Christina Chiu. Finalists included *I Hotel* by **Karen Tei Yamashita** (Coffee House Press) and *The Surrendered* by **Chang-Rae Lee** (Riverhead).

The Asian American Literary Award in Poetry was awarded to **Kimiko Hahn** for her poetry collection *Toxic Flora* (W.W. Norton & Company). American Book Award winner Wing Tek Lum, former poet laureate of Queens Ishle Yi Park, and Scripps college professor Warren Liu, judged this year's poetry award. Finalists for poetry included *We Take Me Apart* by **Molly Gaudry** (Mud Luscious Press) and *Requiem for the Orchard* by **Oliver de la Paz** (University of Akron Press).

The Asian American Literary Award in Nonfiction was awarded to **Amitava Kumar** for his book *A Foreigner Carrying in the Crook of His Arm a Tiny Bomb* (Duke University Press). This year's nonfiction prize was judged by Pulitzer Prize nominee S.Mitra Kalita, Gilman International Award winner Kao Kalia Yang, and University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign professor Martin Manalansan IV. The finalists for the award included *The Lucky Ones: One Family and the Extraordinary Invention of Chinese America* by **Mae Ngai** (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt) and *Hiroshima in the Morning* by **Rahna Reiko Rizzuto** (The Feminist Press at CUNY.)

The PAGE TURNER literary festival is like the ideal boyfriend or girlfriend you never had: that hot unabashedly lefty braniac with an awesome sense of humor and a great heart. Open to readers of all backgrounds, it is the only event of its kind—a multi-day celebration of the best minds in

Asian American arts and politics. Please see <http://www.pageturnerfest.org> for details.

“The writers we recognize show that Asian American literature is not a niche genre, but a central narrative in American letters,” said Ken Chen, Executive Director of the Asian American Writers’ Workshop and winner of the Yale Series of Younger Poets. The Workshop calculates from its award entries that less than 1% of titles each year are written by Asian Americans, who make up 1 in 20 Americans and nearly 12% of New York.

The Workshop is one of the few award-giving literary organizations that actively solicits entries from publishers, to ensure that a comprehensive list of the year’s Asian American books are entered into the competition. Winners of the award—which honor excellent titles in fiction, poetry and nonfiction published in 2010—are determined by a national panel of judges selected on the basis of their expertise in a literary genre. Past winners have included Pulitzer Prize winner **Jhumpa Lahiri** (2009), National Book Award winner **Ha Jin** (2001), and Pulitzer Prize Finalist **Susan Choi** (1999).

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ASIAN AMERICAN LITERARY AWARD FINALISTS

FICTION

Judges: Nami Mun, Tania James, Christina Chiu

Winner: *Gold Boy, Emerald Girl: Stories* by Yiyun Li (Random House)

I Hotel by Karen Tei Yamashita (Coffee House Press)

The Surrendered by Chang-Rae Lee (Riverhead)

POETRY

Judges: Wing Tek Lum, Ishle Yi Park, Warren Liu

Winner: *Toxic Flora: Poems* by Kimiko Hahn (W.W. Norton & Company)

We Take Me Apart by Molly Gaudry (Mud Luscious Press)

Requiem for the Orchard by Oliver de la Paz (University of Akron Press)

NON-FICTION

Judges: S.Mitra Kalita, Kao Kalia Yang, Martin Manalansan IV

A Foreigner Carrying in the Crook of His Arm a Tiny Bomb by Amitava Kumar (Duke University Press Books)

The Lucky Ones: One Family and the Extraordinary Invention of Chinese America by Mae Ngai (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)

Hiroshima in the Morning by Rahna Reiko Rizzuto (The Feminist Press at CUNY)

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PAGE TURNER: The Third Annual Asian American Literary Festival

Featuring Jessica Hagedorn, Junot Díaz, Amitav Ghosh, Jayne Anne Phillips, Hisham Matar, Teju Cole, Min Jin Lee, Amitava Kumar, Kimiko Hahn, Hari Kunzru, and many others!

Saturday, October 29, 2011, 11AM-7PM

At powerHouse Arena, 37 Main Street, Brooklyn, NY & Melville House, 145 Plymouth Street, Brooklyn, NY

\$5 per event / \$20 All-Day Pass / \$30 All-Day Pass with Afterword Party

Tickets can be purchased at <http://www.pageturnerfest.org>

Come rub elbows and knock knees with your favorite writers at one of Brooklyn’s best alternative literary festivals: the third annual PAGE TURNER: The Asian American Literary Festival. Celebrating the twentieth anniversary of the Asian American Writers’ Workshop, the festival features a Korean taco trunk, two stand-up comedians, five National Book Award finalists, seven Guggenheim Fellows, a killer afterparty with the best playlist of all time, and you!

Featuring: Jayne Anne Phillips, Deborah Baker, Christine Balance, Ed Bok Lee, Teju Cole, Siddhartha Deb, Junot Díaz, Danielle Evans, Negin Farsad, Amitav Ghosh, Jessica Hagedorn, Kimiko Hahn, Garrett Hongo, Amitava Kumar, Hari Kunzru, Jen Kwok, Min Jin Lee, Brian Leung, Hisham Matar, Wangechi Mutu, Ralph Peña, Sadia Toor, Dora Wang, Jianying Zha. And AAWW storytellers: Tina Chang, Lisa Ko, Derek Nguyen, Jennifer Y. Pan, Peter Ong, Bino Realuyo, Barbara Tran, and Jeannie Wong.

Don't miss your chance to awkwardly schmooze with literary superstars while stealthily looking up words on your iPhone. It all goes down at powerHouse Arena in Brooklyn---where the literati go to party. Keep coming back as we update [our full schedule](#). Co-sponsored by Melville House, powerHouse Arena, Verso Books, MTV, Guernica, and Granta.

AFTERWORD PARTY

Saturday, October 29, 2011, 8PM-11PM
@Verso Press, 20 Jay Street, Suite 1010, Brooklyn, NY 11201
\$10/ \$30 for party of 4/ \$30 with festival day pass

The Saturday before Halloween join us for music, drinks, dancing, and fine company for the raucous afterparty for the Page Turner Literary Festival. We'll have a stunning view of the Manhattan skyline at night, a killer playlist for your dancing shoes, cake, noisemakers, glitter, a giant piñata, and infinite quantities of beer and wine. Special guests include former New York Times reporter Jennifer 8. Lee and two special guest DJs: Baohaus celebrity chef Eddie Huang, star of upcoming show TV Dinners, and Sujatha Fernandes, author of *Close to the Edge: In Search of the Global Hip Hop Generation* (Verso), a book Jeff Chang calls "a classic of hip hop writing."

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About The Asian American Writers' Workshop

Founded in 1991, The Asian American Writers' Workshop (aaww.org) is the most prominent organization in the country dedicated to exceptional literature by writers of Asian descent. A community of sophisticated readers and writers, the Workshop serves as an advocate and support service for Asian American writers and an intellectual and cultural center for Asian American ideas. Recently ranked by the United Asian American Organizations as one of the top five Asian American groups in the country, the Workshop believes that Asian American literature is not simply a niche genre, but offers something irreplaceable for all readers, regardless of ethnicity or national origin. In other words, Asian American literature is for everyone, not just Asian Americans, and a vital chapter of the story of what it means for all of us to be American.