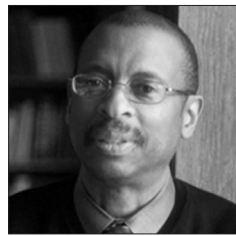




The 13th Annual

CITYLIT FESTIVAL

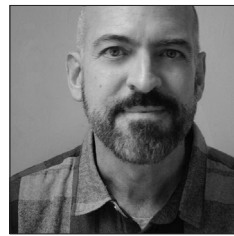
April 15-16, 2016



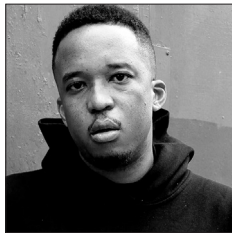
E. Ethelbert Miller



Claudia Rankine



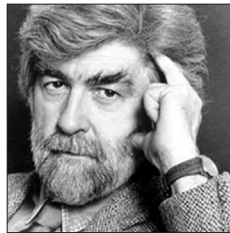
Paul Lisicky



D. Watkins



Lester Spence



Stanley Plumly



Andrew Motion



Juliette Wells



Susan Muaddi
Darraj



Kathy Flann



Amber Sparks



Laura Shovan



Reggie Harris



Jehanne Dubrow



Elisabeth Dahl



Celeste Doaks



Barbara Paca



Danielle Shapiro



Marlene Trestman



Garinè Isassi



Jill Coupe



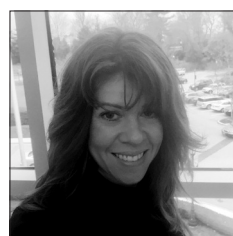
Shirley Brewer



Deborah Arnold



Sheri Venema



Elizabeth Hazen

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

CLAUDIA RANKINE APPEARANCES

Friday, April 15 at 7:00 pm

Claudia Rankine
Poet and Author, *Citizen: An American Lyric*
Maryland Institute College of Art
Falvey Hall, Brown Center
1301 W. Mount Royal Avenue, 21217

In Celebration of National Poetry Month
In Reflection Upon the Anniversary of the
Baltimore Protests, Hosted by Marc Steiner

7:00 pm Welcome by Samuel Hoi, President, MICA

7:05 pm Acknowledgments by Gregg Wilhelm,
Executive Director, CityLit Project

7:10 pm Introduction by Dr. Carla Hayden,
CEO, Enoch Pratt Free Library

7:15 pm Reading and Conversation
Hosted by Marc Steiner, WEAA

8:00 pm Audience Engagement

8:30 pm Book sales and signing

Presented by CityLit Project, Enoch Pratt Free
Library and Maryland Institute College of Art
Books sales courtesy of The Ivy Bookshop

Saturday, April 16 at 10:30 am

Claudia Rankine at Enoch Pratt Free Library
Pennsylvania Avenue Branch
1531 North Avenue, 21217

10:30 am Presentation by West Baltimore Students in
partnership with Dew More Baltimore

10:40 am Opening Remarks:
Gregg Wilhelm, Executive Director, CityLit Project
Reggie Harris, Poets House, NYC

10:45 am Claudia Rankine reading

11:15 am Conversation and Q&A

11:45 am Book Signing

Presented by CityLit Project and the Enoch Pratt Free Library
Book sales courtesy of The Enoch Pratt Free Library

Saturday April 16th

CityLit Festival

University of Baltimore Learning Commons

1415 Maryland Avenue (Near Poe Statue)

LOBBY

11:00 a.m.

Literary Marketplace

Browse literary magazines, small presses, reading series, and authors exhibiting in this first hour of the festival and all day long.

11:45 a.m.

Reading from Pratt Poetry Prize winner

CityLit Festival opens with a reading from the Enoch Free Pratt Library Poetry Contest Winner.

AUDITORIUM

12:00 p.m.

She Writes Press Authors

Founded in 2012 as a response to the barriers to traditional publishing, She Writes Press was created on the principle of connecting and serving women writers everywhere, offering a community for established and aspiring writers. Local

SWP authors Jill McCroskey Coupe (*True Stories at the Smoky View*) and Garinè Isassi (*Start With the Backbeat*) read from their newly published works and discuss this exciting new publishing platform and their experience. Hosted by author and PR consultant Cherrie Woods.

1:00 p.m.

John Keats: Tragic Hero of Romanticism

A reading and conversation about the life and work of John Keats with Keats scholars Sir Andrew Motion of Johns Hopkins University (*Keats and John Keats: (Poet to Poet)*) and Stanley Plumly of the University of Maryland College Park (*Posthumous Keats and The Immortal Evening: A Legendary Dinner with Keats, Wordsworth, and Lamb*), including readings from their books. Motion is former UK Poet Laureate and Plumly is Maryland Poet Laureate. Hosted by poet, novelist, and journalist Rose Solari.

2:00 p.m.

Ladies Choice in Love: The 200th Anniversary of Jane Austen's Emma

Jane Austen wrote of Emma Woodhouse, "I am going to take a heroine whom no one but myself will much like." Though spoiled and headstrong, and a departure from Austen's usual heroines whose focus was on marriage and financial security, Emma is a secure young woman who carefully considers whether those around her are worthy of her attentions. Austen scholar and Goucher professor Dr. Juliette Wells discusses her new annotated edition of *Emma* and moderates a conversation with panelists whose lives and works have been influenced by Austen's novels. (The celebration continues with English Country Dancing on Gordon Plaza outside the Learning Commons at 3:00 p.m.)

3:00 p.m.

The Art of the Short Story

Susan Muaddi Darraj (*A Curious Land*, winner of the AWP 2015 Grace Paley Award for Short Fiction), Kathy Flann (*Get a Grip*, winner of the 2014 George Garrett Fiction Prize), and Amber Sparks (*The Unfinished World*) read from their works and discuss their different approaches to, and love of, the short form. Hosted by University of Baltimore Assistant Professor Jane Delury.

4:00 p.m.

Paul Lisicky

Paul Lisicky's writing has been called "elegant, precise, and sensitive" (Slate). His new memoir from Graywolf Press is part elegy, part natural history, and all memoir. *The Narrow Door: A Memoir of Friendship* traces two of Lisicky's long-term relationships, the chaotic intensity of friendships forged when young, and the beliefs about ourselves and



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the ones we love that we hang on to long after they're no longer true. Hosted by Jen Michalski, author of *From Here* and *The Tide King*.

5:00 p.m.

Writing the Biography

Barbara Paca (Ruth Starr Rose (1896-1965): *Revelations of African American Life in Maryland and the World*); Marlene Trestman (*Fair Labor Lawyer: The Remarkable Life of New Deal Attorney and Supreme Court Advocate Bessie Margolin*), and Danielle Shapiro (*John Vassos: Industrial Design for Modern Life*) read from their work and discuss the researching and writing of biographies, the challenges of narrative structure, and bringing their subjects to life. Hosted by WYPR reporter and senior news producer Mary Rose Madden.

**GORDON PLAZA
Near Poe Statue**

3:00 p.m.

English Country Dancing Lesson

Balls and country dances were where Austen's characters could meet and flirt with possible marriage partners, and where many dramatic moments in her novels took place. Here's your chance to enjoy the dances you may have seen in film adaptations of Austen's works. A professional caller, April Blum, will lead participants in a lesson and several dances, with musical accompaniment. No partner necessary. (In case of rain, this event will move to the Student Center second floor lounge.)

**AUTHOR SALON
ROOM 201, 2nd floor**

12:00–6:00 p.m.

Curated readings showcasing local authors, journals, reading series, and literary arts organizations.

12:00 p.m.

The Light Ekphrastic

The Light Ekphrastic is a quarterly online journal dedicated to the creation of new written and visual artworks through ekphrastic collaboration between contributors. (Ekphrasis is a form of writing, mostly poetry, in which the author describes another work of art, usually visual.) Readers include Ann Bracken, Edward Doyle-Gillespie, Kevin Krause, Seola Lee, Heather Moss, Tim Singleton, and Matthew Zingg. Hosted by Jenny O'Grady. thelightekphrastic.com

1:00 p.m.

The Baltimore Review

The Baltimore Review, established in 1996, is a journal of poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction published online quarterly, with an annual print compilation. *The Baltimore Review*, which publishes writers from all over the world, is happy to present four local writers who have published in its pages: Jen Hirt, Vickie Fang, Matthew Hobson, and Sally Rosen Kindred. Hosted by TBR editor Seth Sawyers. baltimorereview.org

2:00p.m.

Maryland Writers' Association

The Maryland Writers' Association is a voluntary, not-for-profit organization dedicated to supporting the art, business, and craft of writing in all its forms. Featured will be readings from some of the 2014-2016 MWA writing contest winners and judges, including Ellen Herbert, winner in the novel category with *The Last Government Girl* (Apprentice House 2015). Hosted by Lalita Noronha, MWA President, and Holly Morse-Ellington, MWA Vice President. www.marylandwriters.org

3:00 p.m.

The Loch Raven Review

The Loch Raven Review showcases the poetry, short fiction, essays, and translations of both well-known and emerging writers who demonstrate excellence in their work. Readers include poet Bill Jones, poet Jennifer Keith, Man of Letters Dr. Thomas Dorsett M.D., and non-fiction writer Deborah Rudacille. www.lochravenreview.net

4:00 p.m.

New Mercury Readings

In the spirit of Maryland's most famous contrarian, *American Mercury* editor H.L. Mencken, this monthly nonfiction reading series celebrates the creativity and the integrity of independent writers and journalists and a city where truth is frequently stranger than fiction. Readers include Mary Valle and Mia Loving. Hosted by John Barry and Deborah Rudacille. thenewmercuryreadings.com

5:00 p.m.

Smartish Pace

Smartish Pace is an independent nonprofit literary magazine that welcomes unsolicited submissions of poetry, translations of poetry, book reviews, essays on poetry, and interviews with poets. It's the home of Poets Q&A, the first interactive poetry forum on the Internet where readers ask questions of well-known poets. Donald Berger, Joyce S. Brown, Elizabeth Hazen, and Chris Mason read. Hosted by Editor and Founder Stephen Reichert.

**UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE STUDENT CENTER
21 West Mount Royal Avenue**

**WRIGHT THEATER
5th Floor**

12:00 p.m.

Making the Middle-Grade

Authors Elisabeth Dahl (*Genie Wishes*), and Laura Shovan (*The Last Fifth Grade of Emerson Elementary*) read from their middle-grade (readers age 8-12) works followed by a conversation with author and journalist Elizabeth Evitts Dickinson.

1:00 p.m.

**Slam Competition
(open to the public)**

Have a burning desire to express yourself? Love to get on stage in front of your friends and rock the mic? Hosted by spoken word slam luminary Slangston Hughes, and scored by a panel of judges who are dedicated to the art form, participants will have three minutes in each round to grace the stage and spit their finest wordsmithing with a packed house to cheer them on. Winners advance to the next round until the last poet is standing. Participants should arrive ten minutes prior to sign up outside the theater.

2:00 p.m.

**Passager: Growing and
Glowing: Emerging Older
Writers**

Join a robust conversation about being an older writer and what it involves in terms of identity, community, and publishing. Panelists Sheri Venema, Shirley Brewer, and Deb Arnold. Hosted by University of Baltimore Associate Professor Kendra Kopelke.

3:00 p.m.

The Borders of Truth: Poetry

Poets Reggie Harris (Poets House, *Autogeography*, winner of the 2012 Cave Canem/Northwestern University Press Poetry Prize), Jehanne Dubrow (Washington College, *The Arranged Marriage*), and Celeste Doaks (Morgan State University, *Cornrows and Cornfields*) read from and discuss their latest books. Hosted by Gregg Wilhelm, Executive Director, CityLit Project.

4:00 p.m.

**A Lifetime of Writing and
Witnessing: E. Ethelbert Miller**

Poet, activist, teacher, and DC Hall of Fame inductee E. Ethelbert Miller has devoted his life to literature and justice. Celebrate the publication of *The Collected Poems of E. Ethelbert Miller* with the poet and the book's editor, Marymount University professor Kirsten Porter, who calls his words "a call for love and equality, a protest against oppression, a prayer for change."

5:00 p.m.

Lester Spence and D. Watkins

Join Johns Hopkins political science professor Lester Spence (*Knocking the Hustle: Against the Neoliberal Turn in Black Politics*) and University of Baltimore creative writing professor D. Watkins (*The Beast Side*) for a conversation on topics from last year's civil unrest to this year's mayoral race. Hosted by Ron Kipling Williams, spoken word artist, human rights activist/organizer, and independent journalist.

**BOGOMOLNY ROOM
5th Floor**

1:00 and 4:00 p.m.

The Portable Journal

Ever wondered how a book becomes a book? Join us for this hand-made book workshop and instructors Meredith Purvis, Michelle Junot, and Mychael Zulauf will show you how paper and board (seemingly) magically become book. In this two-hour session, they will guide you through making your very own portable journal, the perfect fit for a pocket or purse. (Two 2-hour sessions.)

**STUDENT CENTER
CAFÉ, Lobby**

12:00–1:50 p.m.

Free Critiques

Receive free feedback on your 2-3 poems or 2-3 double-spaced pages of prose (fiction or nonfiction) from published authors or publishing professionals including Evan Balkan (novel, nonfiction), Amanda Fiore (short fiction, novel), Jen Grow (short fiction), Barbara Morrison (poetry, memoir), Holly Morse-Ellington (fiction, nonfiction, playwriting), and Lalita Noronha (poetry, memoir, fiction).

2:00–3:50 p.m.

@ CityLit Speed

Two hours of "speed dating" with literary magazines, small presses, and reading series. Network and find the right opportunity to showcase your work. Participants are encouraged to join in at the top of the hour (2:00 and 3:00) or be folded in as spots become available.

4:00–6:00 p.m.

Agent Pitch

Pitch your project to a literary agent for feedback. Prepare a short pitch of no more than 250 words and bring 2 copies. Each writer will have 5-10 minutes at the discretion of the agent. A nonrefundable fee of \$25 per person is payable online prior to the event. Visit the CityLit Festival page at www.citylitproject.org for information on the agent and reserving your spot.



PARKING AND EVENT MAP

Parking

- 1) Fitzgerald Garage:
80 W. Oliver Street
- 2) Maryland Avenue Garage:
1111 Maryland Avenue

Venues

- 3) UB Learning Commons
- 4) UB Student Center

Train, Bus, Light Rail, Circulator, Metro

www.ubalt.edu/transportation

Local Restaurants
(within a 10 minute walk)

- Barnes & Noble Cafe
- Two Boots Baltimore Pizzeria
- Soups On Baltimore
- The Brewer's Art
- Chipotle
- Thai Landing
- Oriole Pizza and Subs
- Starbucks
- City Cafe
- XS
- The Owl Bar



Claudia Rankine's appearance as part of the CityLit Festival was made possible by a grant from the Maryland Humanities Council, through support from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of the NEH or the Maryland Humanities Council

CityLit Project would like to thank the partners, volunteers, authors, exhibitors, hosts, CityLit board members, and the Baltimore literary arts community for another fantastic festival. Thank you for your support!



CityLit Project was founded in 2004 to serve readers and writers through the literary arts. Its annual festival, outreach to youth, and publishing imprint have been recognized as significant contributions to Baltimore's cultural scene. Learn more at www.CityLitProject.org.