

# Columbia Writers Series presents “The Female Gaze”



The Clark College Columbia Writers Series kicks off its 2019-2020 season with “The Female Gaze” with 2019 National Book Awards Fiction Longlisters **Kali Fajardo-Anstine** (*Sabrina & Corina*) and **Kimberly King Parsons** (*Black Light*). This event, which is free and open to the public, will be held on Thursday, November 7, from noon to 2:00 p.m in Penguin Union Building (PUB) room 161 on Clark College’s main campus.

The event includes a reading and discussion on building buzz around debut short story collections and highlighting the many faces of contemporary female identity in literature. It will feature brief readings, a moderated conversation, and question-and-answer session followed by a book signing.

“The Female Gaze” is presented by the **National Book Foundation** and **Clark College** in a new partnership.

**Kali Fajardo-Anstine** is from Denver, Colorado. Her fiction has appeared in *The American Scholar*, *Boston Review*, *Bellevue Literary Review*, *The Idaho Review*, *Southwestern American Literature*, and elsewhere. Kali has received fellowships from the MacDowell Colony, Yaddo, and Hedgebrook. She received her MFA from the University of Wyoming and has lived across the country, from

Durango, Colorado, to Key West, Florida.

Born in Lubbock, Texas, **Kimberly King Parsons** received her MFA from Columbia University. Her fiction has been published in *The Paris Review*, *Best Small Fictions 2017*, *Black Warrior Review*, *No Tokens*, *Ninth Letter*, and *The Kenyon Review*, among others.

The Columbia Writers Series was launched at Clark College in 1988, bringing local, national and international authors to the college and the region. After “The Female Gaze,” this year’s lineup will continue with the writer Terese Mailhot on Monday, January 27; the poet Ilya Kaminsky will read during spring term.

Information about the Columbia Writers Series is available at [www.clark.edu/cc/cws](http://www.clark.edu/cc/cws).

This event is held on Clark College’s main campus at 1933 Ft. Vancouver Way. Directions and maps are available online. Individuals who need accommodation due to a disability in order to fully participate in this event should contact Clark College’s Disability Support Services (DSS) Office at 360-992-2314 or 360-991-0901 (VP). The DSS office is located in room 013 in Clark’s Penguin Union Building.

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# Poet Laureate visits Clark



Claudia Castro Luna

The Clark College Columbia Writers Series continues its 2018-2019 season with noted poet Claudia Castro Luna. This event, which is free and open to the public, will be held on Thursday, January 31, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in Gaiser Hall room 213 on Clark College's main campus.

Claudia Castro Luna is the **Washington State Poet Laureate**. She served

as **Seattle's Civic**

**Poet** from 2015-2017 and is the author of the Pushcart-nominated *Killing Mariás* (Two Sylvias Press)

and *This City*, (Floating Bridge Press) and the creator of the acclaimed Seattle Poetic Grid. Born

in El Salvador, she came to the United States in 1981. She has a Master of Arts

degree in Urban Planning, a teaching certificate, and a Master of Fine Arts in

poetry. Her poems have appeared in Poetry Northwest, *La Bloga*, Dialogo and *Psychological Perspectives*, among others. Her non-fiction work can

be read in several anthologies, among them *This Is The Place: Women*

*Writing About Home*, (Seal Press). Castro Luna is currently working on

a memoir, *Like Water to Drink*, about

her experience escaping the civil war in El Salvador. Living in English and

Spanish, she writes and teaches in Seattle. Since 2009, she maintains **Cipota bajo la Luna**, a blog with reflections, writing, and reviews.

The Columbia

Writers Series was launched at Clark College in 1988, bringing local, national and international authors to the college and the region. This year's lineup of authors will continue with:

#### Winter

- February 2019 (date TBA): Elizabeth McCracken, award-winning fiction writer.

#### Spring

- May 20, 2019: Alexis Madrigal, author, journalist, and staff writer at *The Atlantic*.
- May 21, 2019: Gina Oschner, award-winning author and Clark alumna
- May 22, 2019: Release of *Phoenix*, Clark College's award-winning arts and literary journal

#### Information

about the Columbia Writers Series is available at [www.clark.edu/cc/cws](http://www.clark.edu/cc/cws).

#### This

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# Subtext runs May 14-17



The Clark College Columbia Writers Series is offering a week of writers, readings, and events on the college's main campus during its fourth annual Subtext Literary Festival. On May 14-17, the college will host well-known authors, as well as readings and events by Clark students and faculty. (See full schedule below.)

The Columbia Writers Series was launched at Clark College in 1988, bringing local, national and international authors to the college and the region. Information about the Columbia Writers Series is available at [www.clark.edu/cc/cws](http://www.clark.edu/cc/cws).

## Schedule

### Monday, May 14

#### Poetry-To-Go Event

**11 a.m. – 12 p.m. in the Cannell Library**

In the tradition of poet Frank O'Hara's *Lunch Poems*, Clark College writing professors will set up vintage typewriters and type personalized poems for passersby on their lunch hour in Cannell Library. Stop by for a hot-off-the-press poem, or if you're feeling inspired, type a poem yourself.

## **Columbia Writers Series presents Roger Reeves**

**1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m., PUB 258 A-B:**

Roger Reeves's poems have appeared in journals such as *Poetry*, *Ploughshares*, *American Poetry Review*, *Boston Review*, *Best American Poetry*, and *Tin House*. He was awarded a 2015 Whiting Award, a Pushcart Prize, a Hodder Fellowship from Princeton University, and a 2013 NEA Fellowship. His first book, *King Me* (Copper Canyon Press, 2013), won the Larry Levis Reading Prize from Virginia Commonwealth University, the Zacharis Prize from *Ploughshares*, and the PEN/Oakland Josephine Miles Literary Award. He is an Associate Professor of English at The University of Texas at Austin.

**Tuesday, May 15**

## **Conversation with novelist Marie Bostwick**

**12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m., LIB 101**

[NOTE: Space is limited for this event. Please register in advance by emailing [anelson@clark.edu](mailto:anelson@clark.edu).] Marie Bostwick is a *USA Today* and *New York Times* listed bestselling author of uplifting historical and women's fiction, including the popular *Cobbled Court Quilt* and *Too Much, Texas* series of books. She has been a featured speaker at the Paducah Quilt Festival and the Houston International Quilt Festival and has given keynote addresses at both the Florida Writers Association and La Jolla Writers conferences.

## ***Phoenix* unveiling**

**3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., PUB 150**

Clark College's national award-winning art and literary journal, *Phoenix*, will unveil its 2017-2018 edition with readings from student authors and free copies available for

guests. Additionally, Lacy Davis, writer of the graphic memoir *Ink in Water*, will share her work. An interview of Davis by a *Phoenix* staffer appears in this year's journal.

## **Wednesday, May 16**

### **Lecture by Leni Zumas and writing awards ceremony**

**4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., PUB 161**

Leni Zumas' novel *Red Clocks*, published in January 2018, was a *New York Times* Editors' Choice and a *Publishers Weekly* "Top 10 Literary Fiction" pick. She is also the author of the story collection *Farewell Navigator* and the novel *The Listeners*, which was a finalist for the Oregon Book Award. Originally from Washington, D.C., Zumas now lives in Oregon and teaches in the BFA and MFA programs at Portland State University.

## **Thursday, May 17**

### **Clark Crossings (student and faculty reading)**

**11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., PUB 258A:**

Clark College students, faculty, and staff will read original essays, fiction, and poetry at this annual event. This year's theme is "time."

**Columbia Writers Series presents Kate**

## **Berube**

**1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m., PUB 258 A-B**

Kate Berube (Bear uh bee) is a children's book author and illustrator. Her book *The Summer Nick Taught his Cats to Read* was named the Best Picture Book of 2016 by both the Chicago Public Library and the *School Library Journal*, while her book *Hannah and Sugar* earned the Eloise Jarvis McGraw Award for Children's Literature from Literary Arts Oregon and was shortlisted for the Klaus Flugge Prize.

All events are free and open to the public, though pre-registration is required for the Marie Bostwick event. Directions and maps are available online at [www.clark.edu/maps](http://www.clark.edu/maps). Individuals who need accommodation due to a disability in order to fully participate in this event should contact Clark College's Disability Support Services (DSS) Office at 360-992-2314 or 360-991-0901 (VP). The DSS office is located in room 013 in Clark's Penguin Union Building.

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## **Clark College Columbia Writers Series hosts Cheston Knapp**



Cheston Knapp. *Photo: Alexis Knapp*

The Clark College Columbia Writers Series continues its



2017-2018 season with Cheston Knapp, managing editor of the award-winning literary magazine *Tin House*. He will discuss his work and read from his new collection of essays, *Up Up, Down Down*.

This event, which is free and open to the public, will be held on Thursday, February 15, from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. in Penguin Union Building (PUB) room 258A-B on Clark College's main campus.

Cheston Knapp is managing editor of *Tin House*, a literary magazine based in Portland, Oregon. He graduated with a degree in English from the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia. He is the recipient of a 2015 Oregon Literary Fellowship from Literary Arts and the executive director of the Tin House Summer Writers' Workshop. His work has appeared in *Tin House* and *One Story*. *Up Up, Down Down* is his first book. It has received critical praise from the literary world, including this evaluation by Joshua Ferris, author of *And Then We Came to the End*: "Offering up a steady supply of perfectly chosen words in precision-guided sentences, Cheston Knapp will either break your heart or jolt your spine, and quite possibly bring some of us back to life."

The Columbia Writers Series was launched at Clark College in 1988, bringing local, national and international authors to the college and the region. This year's lineup of authors continues with:

- May 14, 2018: Roger Reeves, Pushcart Prize-winning poet
- May 17, 2018: Kate Berube, children's book author and illustrator

Information about the Columbia Writers Series is available at [www.clark.edu/cc/cws](http://www.clark.edu/cc/cws).

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## Aimee Bender at Clark College



Author Aimee Bender. *Photo: Mike Glier/USC Dornlife*

Clark College welcomes award-winning novelist Aimee Bender, author of *The Girl in the Flammable Skirt* and *The Color Master*, as part of the college's Columbia Writers Series.

Bender will read from and discuss her writing from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Monday, October 30, in the Penguin Union Building (PUB) room 258 on Clark's main campus.

Aimee Bender is the author of five books: *The Girl in the Flammable Skirt* (1998), which was a NY Times Notable Book; *An Invisible Sign of My Own* (2000), which was a *Los Angeles Times* pick of the year; *Willful Creatures* (2005) which was nominated by *The Believer* as one of the best books of the year; *The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake* (2010), which won the SCIBA award for best fiction and an Alex Award; and *The Color Master*, a *New York Times* Notable book for 2013. Her books have been translated into 16 languages.

Her short fiction has been published in *Granta*, *GQ*, *Harper's*, *Tin House*, *McSweeney's*, *The Paris Review*, and more. It also has been heard on PRI's "This American Life" and "Selected

Shorts.”

She lives in Los Angeles with her family and teaches creative writing at USC.

The event is free and open to the public. Directions and maps are available online. Individuals who need accommodation due to a disability in order to fully participate in this event should contact Clark College’s Disability Support Services (DSS) Office at 360-992-2314 or 360-991-0901 (VP) or visit room PUB 013.

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## Kenny Fries opens Columbia Writers Series season



Kenny Fries. *Photo: Michael  
R. Dekker*

The Clark College Columbia Writers Series kicks off its 2017-2018 season with renowned poet, memoirist, and critic Kenny Fries. This event, which is free and open to the public, will be held on Tuesday, October 10, from 11:00 a.m. to noon in Penguin Union Building (PUB) room 258A on Clark College’s

main campus.

Fries is perhaps best known for his memoir *Body, Remember: A Memoir*, which recounts his experiences as a disabled child growing up in an abusive Orthodox Jewish home and slowly coming to terms with his identity as a gay, disabled man. He has written two other memoirs, *In the Province of the Gods* and *The History of My Shoes and the Evolution of Darwin's Theory*, this last the winner of the Outstanding Book Award from the Gustavus Myers Center for the Study of Bigotry and Human Rights. He is the editor of *Staring Back: The Disability Experience from the Inside Out* and the author of the libretto for *The Memory Stone*, an opera commissioned by the Houston Grand Opera. His books of poems include *Anesthesia*, *Desert Walking*, and *In the Gardens of Japan*. He teaches in the MFA in Creative Writing Program at Goddard College.

The Columbia Writers Series was launched at Clark College in 1988, bringing local, national and international authors to the college and the region. This year's lineup of authors includes, besides Fries:

## Fall

- October 30: Aimee Bender, author of *The Girl in the Flammable Skirt* and *The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake*

## Winter

- February 15, 2018: Cheston Knapp, editor of *Tin House* magazine and author of *Up Up, Down Down*, which will appear in February 2018

## Spring

- May 14, 2018: Roger Reeves, Pushcart Prize-winning poet
- May 17, 2018: Kate Berube, children's book author and illustrator

Information about the Columbia Writers Series is available at [www.clark.edu/cc/cws](http://www.clark.edu/cc/cws).

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## Exploring Subtext



The Clark College Columbia Writers Series is offering a full week of writers, readings, and events on the college's main campus during its third annual Subtext Literary Festival. From May 15-18, the college will host well-known authors, as well as readings by Clark students and faculty.

All events are free and open to the public. Directions and maps are available online. Individuals who need accommodation due to a disability in order to fully participate in this event should contact Clark College's Disability Support Services (DSS) Office at 360-992-2314 or 360-991-0901 (VP). The DSS office is located in room 013 in Clark's Penguin Union Building.

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# Schedule

## **May 15, 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m., PUB 258B: *“Possible Utopias” Writing Workshop***

Arwen Spicer, an instructor in the English department, will lead this workshop, which will provide a fun opportunity to engage in guided writing and discussion about imagining bright futures for our world. Each participant will leave the workshop with a final piece of writing that outlines their vision for a better society. The workshop is free and open to the public. Although participants are encouraged to come for the full two hours, drop-ins are also welcome.

## **May 16, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., PUB 161: *Phoenix Unveiling***

Clark College’s national award-winning art and literary journal, *Phoenix*, will unveil its 2016-2017 edition with readings from student authors and free copies available for guests. The 2015-2016 edition of *Phoenix* just earned the prize for Best Design from the Association of Writers & Writing Programs—the first time the award has gone to a two-year college in a decade.

## **May 17, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m., PUB 258A: Clark Crossings Student and Faculty Reading**

Students and faculty will read from their own work or from the work of their favorite writers. Each reading will relate to the college theme of “Transformation,” and fiction, poetry, and memoir will all be included.

**May 18, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m., PUB 161:**  
***Fiction writer Peter Rock***

Peter Rock is a professor of creative writing at Reed College. His most recent book is *SPELLS*, a novel-within-photographs that is a collaboration with five photographers and concerns shadows and bodies, the living and the dead, talking animals and all manner of shape-shifting. He is also the author of the novels *Klickitat*, *The Shelter Cycle*, *My Abandonment*, *The Bewildered*, *The Ambidextrist*, *Carnival Wolves* and *This Is the Place*, and a story collection, *The Unsettling*.

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## **Ruth Wariner at Columbia Writers Series**



Ruth Wariner. *Photo:*  
*Joni Shimabukuro*

During the 2017 spring quarter installment of its renowned Columbia Writers Series, Clark College will welcome Ruth Wariner, author of the memoir *The Sound of Gravel*, which has gained national praise for its frank, spare description of her childhood growing up in a polygamist Mormon colony in Mexico.

Ruth Wariner is an internationally renowned speaker and author of the 2016 *New York Times* bestselling memoir, *The Sound of Gravel*. At the age of 15, Ruth escaped Colonia LeBaron, the

polygamist Mormon colony where she grew up, and moved to California. She raised her three youngest sisters in California and Oregon. After earning her GED, she put herself through college and graduate school, eventually becoming a high school Spanish teacher. She remains close to her siblings and is happily married. *The Sound of Gravel* is her first book. *People* magazine called it “[h]eartbreaking, haunting, yet ultimately uplifting.” *Kirkus Reviews* wrote of it: “Engrossingly readable from start to finish, the book not only offers a riveting portrayal of life in a polygamist community. It also celebrates the powerful bond between siblings determined to not only survive their circumstances, but also thrive in spite of them. An unsentimental yet wholly moving memoir.” More can be found at her website, [www.ruthwariner.com](http://www.ruthwariner.com).

Wariner will read from and discuss her writing from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 3, in room PUB 258A on Clark’s main campus. The event is free and open to the public. Directions and maps are available online. Individuals who need accommodation due to a disability in order to fully participate in this event should contact Clark College’s Disability Support Services (DSS) Office at 360-992-2314 or 360-991-0901 (VP) or visit room PUB 013.

The Columbia Writers Series was launched at Clark College in 1988, bringing local, national and international authors to the college and the region. Information about the Columbia Writers Series—including the Subtext Literary Festival taking place May 15-18—is available at [www.clark.edu/cc/cws](http://www.clark.edu/cc/cws).



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# A champ returns



Award-winning  
author Mitchell S.  
Jackson began his  
college career at  
Clark.     *Photo:*  
*Charlotte M. Wales*

During the 2017 winter quarter installment of its renowned Columbia Writers Series, Clark College will welcome back former student Mitchell S. Jackson, an award-winning author. Mitchell will read from and discuss his writing from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 17, in room PUB 258 on Clark's main campus.

"I'm excited about Mitchell's reading because I think it will be a great opportunity for Clark students to hear from someone who grew up in the area and attended Clark," says English instructor Alexis Nelson, who co-directs the Columbia Writers Series. "I also think *The Residue Years* suits the college theme of Transformation, in addition to being a unique and powerful read."

Raised in Portland, Mitchell Jackson is the author of *The Residue Years*, a novel that Mitchell has said includes many autobiographical elements. The award-winning book centers on the relationship between Champ, a young African-American man struggling to balance his ambitions with his circumstances, and his mother Grace, recently released from rehab.

Jackson began his college career at Clark in 1993, where he

played basketball under then-coach David Waldow. "My time at Clark was formative," says Jackson. "It taught me that I would have to work hard to achieve my goals, that I'd have to take responsibility for my decisions. Coach Waldow was tough on me, but he was also a figure I needed at that point in my life."

Jackson transferred to another college after one year at Clark, eventually earning an M.A. in writing from Portland State University and an M.F.A in Creative Writing from New York University. He currently resides in New York, and serves on the faculty of both New York University and Columbia University.

*The Residue Years* has earned significant accolades since its release in 2013. It was praised by publications including *The New York Times*, *The Paris Review*, and *The Times of London*. Jackson is the winner of a Whiting Award. His novel also won The Ernest J. Gaines Prize for Literary Excellence and was a finalist for the Center for Fiction's Flaherty-Dunnan First novel prize, the PEN/ Hemingway award for first fiction, and the Hurston / Wright Legacy Award. Jackson's honors include fellowships from TED, the Lannan Foundation, the BreadLoaf Conference, and the Center for Fiction. It was also the 2015 Everybody Reads selection of the Multnomah County Library. *The New York Times* said in its review of the book, "Jackson's prose has a spoken-word cadence, the language flying off the page with percussive energy ... there is a warmth and a hard-won wisdom about the intersection of race and poverty in America."

The event is free and open to the public. Directions and maps are available online. Individuals who need accommodation due to a disability in order to fully participate in this event should contact Clark College's Disability Support Services (DSS) Office at 360-992-2314 or 360-991-0901 (VP). The DSS office is located in room 013 in Clark's Penguin Union Building.

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## Dana Spiotta reads at Clark



Dana Spiotta. *Photo:*  
*Jessica Marx*

The Clark College Columbia Writers Series is proud to present its fall quarter installment, featuring author Dana Spiotta. This event, which is free and open to the public, will be held in Anna Pechanec Hall (APH) room 201 on Clark College's main campus.

Dana Spiotta is the author of the novels *Lightning Field*, *Eat the Document*, *Stone Arabia*, and *Innocents and Others*. She has been a Guggenheim Fellow, a New York Foundation for the Arts Fellow, and a Rome Prize winner, and her novels have been selected as finalists for the National Book Award and the National Book Critics Circle Award. A recent profile of Spiotta in the *New York Times Magazine* stated that she has "created a new kind of great American novel."

Spiotta will read from some of her work and discuss her writing process from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Thursday, November 3. Directions and maps are available online. Individuals who need accommodation due to a disability in order to fully

participate in this event should contact Clark College's Disability Support Services (DSS) Office at 360-992-2314 or 360-991-0901 (VP). The DSS office is located in room 013 in Clark's Penguin Union Building.

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