



INTERNATIONAL
ARTS CENTER

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International Writers in Residence at Omi International Arts Center to Give Reading on Saturday, September 28th, 5 PM



For Immediate Release

Ghent, New York - A distinguished group of ten writers currently in residence at Writers Omi at Ledig House will read from their works on Saturday, September 28th at 5pm in the Gallery of the Visitors Center at Omi International Arts Center (1405 County Route 22, Ghent). This is the first event hosted by Writers Omi for the Fall 2013 session. This year's group boasts many literary accomplishments including an author shortlisted for the Sapir prize (the Israeli equivalent of the Booker Prize), another short-listed for the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award, and regular contributors to such publications as the *Paris Review* and the *New York Times*. Their work spans fiction, nonfiction, translation, and theater.

According to DW Gibson, the Director of Writers Omi at Ledig House, "The

residents this fall bring a wide range of work from far-reaching parts of the world. There are several exciting playwrights, as well as residents working in regional or marginalized languages that have little or no exposure in the US, including a young translator from Croatia and a novelist working in Catalan. It will be a real pleasure to share the work of these residents with American readers."

The reading is free and open to the public. Following the event, Omi invites visitors to stay for a casual barbeque with the writers, for which donations are appreciated. Reading from their work on September 28 will be Ferenc Barnás (Hungary, Fiction), Vanessa Blakeslee (US, Fiction), Chandradas Choudhury (India, Fiction/Nonfiction), Ursula Fricker (Switzerland, Fiction), Denise Kumani Gantt (US, Theater/Poetry), Eugene Lee (South Korea, Theater), Thomas Lysaght (US, Theater/Nonfiction/Fiction), Amichai Shalev (Israel, Fiction/Nonfiction/Screenwriting), Samantha Subramanian (India, Nonfiction), and Kirsten Reinhardt (Germany, Fiction).

Ferenc Barnás (Hungary, Fiction)

Ferenc is the author of *The Parasite and The Ninth*, which was long-listed for the Best Translated Book Award and the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award. His work has appeared in *The Literary Review*, *Absinth: New European Writing*, *turnow*, and *Pilvax*, among others. He was the recipient of artist residencies from the MacDowell Colony, Yaddo, the Edward F. Albee Foundation, and awarded the Sándor Márai Prize. His latest novel, *Other Death* won the prestigious Aegon Prize earlier this year. He lives and works in Budapest.

Vanessa Blakeslee (US, Fiction)

Vanessa's writing has appeared in *The Paris Review Daily*, *The Southern Review*, *The Globe and Mail*, and *Kenyon Review Online*, among many others. She has been awarded grants and fellowships from Yaddo, The Banff Centre, the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, and the Ragdale Foundation; earlier this year she received the Individual Artist Fellowship in Literature from the Florida Division of Cultural Affairs. Her debut story collection, *Train Shots*, is forthcoming from Burrow Press in early 2014.

Find Vanessa online at www.vanessablakeslee.com.

Chandrabhas Choudhury (India, Fiction/Nonfiction)

Chandrabhas is a novelist based in New Delhi. He is the author of *Arzee the Dwarf*, selected as one of "60 Essential Works of Modern Indian Literature in English" by World Literature Today, and published in America in fall 2013 by NYRBLit, an imprint of the New York Review of Books.

Chandrabhas also reviews books for the *New York Times* and the *Wall Street Journal*, and writes a weekly column on Indian politics and society for *Bloomberg World View*. He's also the editor of a short introduction to Indian fiction, *India: A Traveler's Literary Companion* (Whereabouts Press, California, 2010).

Ursula Fricker (Switzerland, Fiction)

Ursula was born in 1965 in Schaffhausen and now lives outside Berlin. She studied social sciences and was a newspaper reporter before publishing her first novel, *Fleeing Waters (Fliehende Wasser)*, followed by *The Last Picture (Das letzte Bild)*. With her third novel, *Desperate (Außer sich)*, 2012, she was shortlisted for the Swiss Book Award.

Denise Kumani Gantt (US, Theater/Poetry)

Denise's plays and performance pieces include *meditations/from the ash*, winner of the Artscape 1997 Best Play Contest and voted Best New Play by the *Baltimore Alternative*; *Three Stories to the Ground*, written with Gabriel Shanks and winner of the Theatre Project Outstanding Vision In Theatre Award; *Communion* written with actress Vanessa Thomas for Washington, DC's Horizons Theater, and *Testament*, a play inspired by *Antigone*. Her current work-in-progress, *The Gift*, a brief history of everything we have ever known, received a staged-reading at ACT in Seattle. In January 2013, she performed her new solo work, *Eve's Lament*, as part the Lekhana Literary Weekend in Bangalore, India. In 2003, her collection of poetry, *conjuring the dead*, was awarded the Maryland Emerging Writers Award by poet, Afaa Michael Weaver. She has vocally trained with Richard Armstrong, Rhiannon, and Bobby McFerrin and holds a MFA in Theatre Performance from Towson University.

Eugene Lee (South Korea, Theater)

Eugene received her MFA in playwriting from Korea National University of Arts. She has written several plays including *Ong Hwa* and *Toilette Goddess*. Most recently she published *Armian*, an adaptation of a graphic novel. In 2012, she was a resident at Sangam House in India and at the Seoul Art Space. She lives in Seoul.

Thomas Lysaght (US, Theater/Nonfiction/Fiction)

Thomas was raised in Brooklyn and educated at Harvard. He has written over 30 plays which have been performed from the villages of the Andes and India to Off-Broadway. A long-time resident of California, for the past decade he has made Cape Town, South Africa, his second home. His memoir *Till Your Father Gets Home* is slated for 2014 publication. Tom is working on his historical novel, *Yaramaz in Exile*, about Persia, told from the point of view of a Jewish dancing boy.

Kirsten Reinhardt (Germany, Fiction)

Kirsten is a writer of children's fiction, which, she believes, is also for adults. She lives in Berlin and is currently working on her third novel. Critics like to mention her bizarre and sometimes dark humor. Little Island Books will publish her debut novel, *Fennymore and the Brumella*, in English in 2014.

Amichai Shalev (Israel, Fiction/Nonfiction/Screenwriting)

Amichai studied history and literature at the Tel Aviv University, and screenwriting at the Camera Obscura School of Art. In recent years, he has worked as a literature and art editor for *Ynet*, the internet edition of the daily newspaper *Yediot Ahronot*. He also writes critical essays for the press, works as an editor for the publishing house Modan, and teaches creative writing and critical thinking. *The Mentals* is his second novel and was shortlisted for the Sapir prize (the Israeli equivalent of the Booker Prize). His first novel, *Pop Days* (Yediot Aharonot, 2004), has recently been reprinted. His third novel, *Big Girl*, was released in April 2012.

Samanth Subramanian (India, Nonfiction)

Samanth, a New Delhi-based journalist, has written for the *New York Times*, *the Wall Street Journal*, *the Guardian* and *Caravan*. His first book, *Following Fish: Travels around the Indian Coast*, was published in May 2010. He is working on his second book, a narrative history of the Sri Lankan civil war.

About Writers Omi at Ledig House

Since its founding in 1992, Omi has hosted hundreds of authors and translators, representing more than fifty countries, in the rural setting of Ghent, New York. The program was named for German publisher, Heinrich Maria Ledig-Rowohlt, who was noted for his passionate commitment to quality in literature. The colony's strong international emphasis reflects the spirit of cultural exchange that is part of Ledig's enduring legacy. His authors included Thomas Wolfe, William Faulkner, Yukio Mishima, Jean-Paul Sartre, Vladimir Nabokov, John Updike, Toni Morrison and Thomas Pynchon. Writers Omi welcomes published writers and translators of every type of literature international, cultural and creative exchange is a foundation of its mission

About Omi International Arts Center

Omi International Arts Center is a not-for-profit arts organization with residency programs for international visual artists, writers, translators, musicians and dancers. The 300 acre campus is also the site for The Fields Sculpture Park, a public exhibition space with nearly 80 contemporary sculptures; Architecture Omi, exploring the intersection of architecture, art and landscape; and Education Omi, an arts education programs for children. Omi seeks to foster an environment of creative exploration and exchange, professional opportunity and exposure, and a stylistically and culturally diverse community for creative artists from around the world. Through our programs and resulting public events - including our Residency Programs, The Fields Sculpture Park, Architecture Omi, and Education Omi - Omi contributes to the vibrant culture of the Northeast region. For more information visit:

www.omiartscenter.org

Image Credit: (left) Robert Haasnoot, 2013 Spring Writers Omi Resident reading from his works in the Visitors Center.