



Fall 2022 Readings and Lectures

COVID-19 Culture of Care guidelines at Hollins University:

- Guests must provide proof of full vaccination (one or two doses, depending on which vaccine was administered, and at least one booster).
- Masking is required at events where more than 50 people are gathered.

Renée Branum

Reading: Thursday, September 8, 2022 ☞ 7:30 pm ☞ Hollins Room, Wyndham Robertson Library

Q & A: Friday, September 9, 2022 ☞ 11:00 am ☞ Hollins Room, Wyndham Robertson Library

Renée Branum's stories and essays have appeared in several publications, including *The Georgia Review*, *Narrative Magazine*, *The Gettysburg Review*, *Alaska Quarterly Review*, and *Lit Hub*. Her story, "As the Sparks Fly Upward," was included in the *Best American Nonrequired Reading's* 2019 anthology. She is a 2009 graduate of Hollins University and has earned M.F.A.s in fiction from the Iowa Writers' Workshop and nonfiction from the University of Montana. Her first novel, *Defenestrate* (Bloomsbury, 2022), was a *New York Times Book Review* Editors' Choice. *The Washington Post* praised it as "Stylish, shimmering . . . In a feat of literary archery, Branum's lyrical prose hits its mark again and again." She is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in fiction writing.

Sponsored by the Department of English and Creative Writing and the Dee Hull Everist Visiting Speaker Fund.

Khaled Mattawa

Reading: Thursday, September 22, 2022 ☞ 7:30 pm ☞ Green Drawing Room, Main Building

Q & A: Friday, September 23, 2022 ☞ 11:00 am ☞ Hollins Room, Wyndham Robertson Library

Khaled Mattawa's poetry volumes include *Fugitive Atlas* (Graywolf Press, 2020), *Tocqueville* (New Issues, 2010), *Amorisco* (Ausable, 2008), *Zodiac of Echoes* (Ausable, 2003), and *Ismailia Eclipse* (Sheep Meadow Press, 1995). He also wrote the chapbook collections *Mare Nostrum* (Sarabande Books, 2019) and *Mahmoud Darwish: The Poet's Art and His Nation* (Syracuse University Press, 2014). Poet Yusef Komunyakaa calls Mattawa's work "novelistic in its reach and depth," and poet Marilyn Hacker writes that it "is politically astute, formally daring, grips the reader with an intelligence that spotlights, too, its sensual and emotional (and historical) accuracy." Mattawa has also translated many volumes of contemporary Arabic poetry and coedited two anthologies of Arab American literature. He teaches in the graduate creative writing program at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Sponsored by the Department of English and Creative Writing, the Jackson Poetry Fund, and the Dee Hull Everist Visiting Speaker Fund.

Dolores Dorantes

Book Discussion – for Hollins students: discussing *Copy*

Thursday, October 6, 2022 ☞ 4:30-5:30 pm ☞ Goodwin Private Dining Room, Moody Center

The book discussion, for Hollins students, is limited to 20 people. Contact Alison Ridley (aridley@hollins.edu) by September 12 to reserve your spot and receive a copy of the book.

Reading: Thursday, October 6, 2022 ☞ 7:30 pm ☞ Visual Arts Center Auditorium

Q & A: Friday, October 7, 2022 ☞ 11:00 am ☞ Hollins Room, Wyndham Robertson Library

Dolores Dorantes is a journalist, writer, therapist, poet, and performer from Mexico. Her most recent work is *Copy* (Wave Books, 2021), translated by Robin Myers. *Copy* is a prose poem sequence that insinuates an experience of violent removal: a person's disappearance from a country, from normal life, and forcible reintegration into a new social and existential configuration. This displaced, dispossessed voice explores what it means to be extracted, subtracted, abstracted out of being—and returned into it. Dorantes' other books include *The River* (Gato Negro Ediciones, 2019), a collaboration with the artist Zoe Leonard, and *Style* (Kenning Editions, 2016), a book of prose poems that transforms the acts and language of violence into unexpected images. Her writings have been translated into English, French, Dutch, German, Portuguese, Slovenian, Bengali, and Swedish.

Sponsored by the Department of English and Creative Writing, the Department of Modern Languages, and the Dee Hull Everist Visiting Speaker Fund.

Fernando A. Flores

Reading: Thursday, October 27, 2022 ☞ 7:30 pm ☞ Green Drawing Room, Main Building

Q & A: Friday, October 28, 2022 ☞ 11:00 am ☞ Hollins Room, Wyndham Robertson Library

Fernando Flores was born in Mexico and grew up in South Texas. His newest book, *Valleyesque: Stories* (Farrar, Strauss & Giroux, 2022), has been described by *The New York Times Book Review* as an "exuberantly strange story collection" and as "a unique mix of magical realism and hyperrealism" by *The Houston Chronicle*. He is also the author of the novel *Tears of the Trufflepig* (Farrar, Strauss & Giroux, 2019), which was longlisted for the Center for Fiction First Novel Prize and named a best book of 2019 by Tor.com, and the collection *Death to the Bullshit Artists of South Texas* (Host Publications, 2018). His fiction has appeared in the *Los Angeles Review of Books Quarterly*, *American Short Fiction*, *Ploughshares*, *Frieze*, *Porter House Review*, and elsewhere.

Sponsored by the Department of English and Creative Writing and the Dee Hull Everist Visiting Speaker Fund.

Agent/Editor and Authors – featuring Barbara Jones, Lillian Li, and Adelle Waldman

Reading: Thursday, November 10, 2022 ☞ 7:30 pm ☞ Green Drawing Room, Main Building

Q & A: Friday, November 11, 2022 ☞ 11:00 am ☞ Janney Lounge, Moody Center

Barbara Jones is a literary agent with Stuart Krichevsky Literary Agency, a leading, independent New York literary agency representing a distinguished list of bestselling and award-winning authors. Jones represents authors behind a range of fiction and nonfiction, from highly literary works to much more commercial fare, with an emphasis across all forms on voices from previously underrepresented communities and on durable talents and stories. Previously, she spent several decades as an editor, first in magazines (*Grand Street*, *Harper's*, *Vogue*, *Real Simple*) and then in books (as editorial director at Hyperion Books and, most recently, as executive editor at Henry Holt). She has also led writing workshops for 30 years, at Yale University, New York University, Queens University of Charlotte, and elsewhere.

Lillian Li is the author of the novel *Number One Chinese Restaurant* (Henry Holt and Company, 2018), which was an NPR Best Book of 2018, and longlisted for the Women's Prize and the Center for Fiction's First Novel Prize. *The Village Voice* called it "A wonderfully honest portrait of what it takes to make it in America," while *The Guardian* praised the book as "an insightful and elegant novel, beautifully written and with an impressively large and diverse cast of characters." Her work has been published in the *New York Times*, *Granta*, *One Story*, *Bon Appetit*, *Travel & Leisure*, *The Guardian*, and *Jezebel*. She is the recipient of a Hopwood Award in Short Fiction, as well as *Glimmer Train's* New Writer Award.

Adelle Waldman's writing has appeared in *The New York Times Book Review*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Slate*, *The Village Voice*, and other publications. Her first novel, *The Love Affairs of Nathaniel P.* (Henry Holt and Company, 2013), has been called one of 2013's best books by *The New Yorker*, *The New Republic*, *Slate*, *The Economist*, NPR, *Fresh Air*, *The National Journal*, *Bookforum*, *The National Post*, *BookPage*, *The Guardian*, *Cosmopolitan*, *Elle*, *Baltimore City Paper*, and *The Irish Times*. It was also named a *New York Times'* Editor's Choice and a *Washington Post* Notable Book. *The Economist* calls *Nathaniel P.* "Incisive and very funny... This is an impressive book, full of sharp and amusing observations about urban life, liberal pieties and modern dating."

Sponsored by the Department of English and Creative Writing and the Dee Hull Everist Visiting Speaker Fund.

Writers' Harvest Reading

Thursday, December 1, 2022 ☞ 7:30 pm ☞ Visual Arts Center Auditorium

*Hollins faculty writers read from their work to raise money for the hungry.
100% of the proceeds will be donated directly to Feeding Southwest Virginia.*

\$10 General Admission

Students: \$5 or a non-perishable food item

\$10 donated helps them provide 50 meals in our service region.

Come and hear exciting new work by our Hollins writers and help a very good cause at the same time!

Sponsored by the Department of English and Creative Writing and the Dee Hull Everist Visiting Speaker Fund.