

MFA EVENTS Spring 2021

All events will be held on Zoom. RSVP with Michele McBride: mmcbride@monmouth.edu



February 18th | 4:30pm:

Tracy K. Smith

(On Toni Morrison Day, sponsored by the *Monmouth Review*)

Tracy K. Smith is a Pulitzer Prize-winning author and the current Poet Laureate of the United States. She is the author of four poetry collections, including *Wade in the Water*, winner of the 2019 Anisfield-Wolf Book Award in Poetry. Her debut collection, *The Body's Question*, won the Cave Canem Poetry Prize in 2002. Her second book, *Duende*, won the 2006 James Laughlin Award from the Academy of American Poets. Her collection *Life on Mars* won the 2012 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry. She also edited the anthology *American Journal: Fifty Poems for Our Tim*. In 2021, she was elected a Chancellor of the Academy of American Poets. She is the Director of Princeton University's Program in Creative Writing. She lives in New Jersey.

February 24th | 6:05pm-7:30pm: Ruth Awad

Ruth Awad is the Lebanese-American author of *Set to Music a Wildfire*, winner of the 2016 Michael Waters Poetry Prize and the 2018 Ohioana Book Award for Poetry. Alongside Rachel Mennies, she is the co-editor of *The Familiar Wild: On Dogs and Poetry*. Her work has appeared in *Poetry*, *Poem-a-Day*, *The Believer*, *The New Republic*, *Pleiades*, *The Missouri Review*, *The Rumpus*, and elsewhere.

April 7th | 6pm-7pm: Wayétu Moore

Wayétu Moore is the author of *She Would Be King* and the memoir *The Dragons, The Giant, The Women*. She is the recipient of the 2019 Lannan Literary Fellowship for Fiction. *She Would Be King* was named a best book of 2018 by Publishers Weekly, Booklist, Entertainment Weekly & BuzzFeed. And *The Dragons, The Giant, The Women* is a 2020 finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award in Autobiography.

April 15th | 6:05pm-7:30pm: Marie-Helene Bertino

Marie-Helene Bertino is the author of the novels *Parakeet* (a *New York Times* Editors' Choice), *2 A.M. at the Cat's Pajamas*, and the story collection *Safe as Houses*. Her fourth book, the novel *Beautyland*, is forthcoming from FSG. Her work has been translated into eight languages, and has received The Frank O'Connor International Short Story Fellowship in Cork, Ireland, The O. Henry Prize, The Pushcart Prize, fellowships from The MacDowell and Hedgebrook Writers Colonies, The Center For Fiction NYC, and Sewanee Writers Conference, and has twice been featured on NPR's "Selected Shorts" radio program. A former editor for *One Story* and *Catapult*, she teaches fiction in the MFA programs of NYU and The New School. In Spring 2020 she was the Distinguished Kittredge Visiting Writer in the MFA program at the University of Montana.