

The University of Tampa MFA

June 2018 Residency Visiting Writers



Kazim Ali, poet, editor, and prose writer, was born in the United Kingdom to Muslim parents of Indian, Iranian and Egyptian descent. He received a B.A. and M.A. from the University of Albany-SUNY, and an M.F.A. from New York University. His books encompass several volumes of poetry, including *Sky Ward*, winner of the Ohioana Book Award in Poetry; *The Far Mosque*, winner of Alice James Books' New England/New York Award; *The Fortieth Day*; *All One's Blue*; and, the cross-genre text *Bright Felon*. His novels include *Quinn's Passage* and *The Disappearance of Seth*. Ali is an associate professor of Creative Writing and Comparative Literature at Oberlin College. His new book of poems, *Inquisition*, was released in March 2018.

Sonya Huber's new essay collection is called *Pain Woman Takes Your Keys and Other Essays from a Nervous System*. Her other books include *Opa Nobody*, *Cover Me: A Health Insurance Memoir*, *The Evolution of Hillary Rodham Clinton*, and *The Backwards Research Guide for Writers*. She teaches at Fairfield University and directs Fairfield's Low-Residency MFA Program.



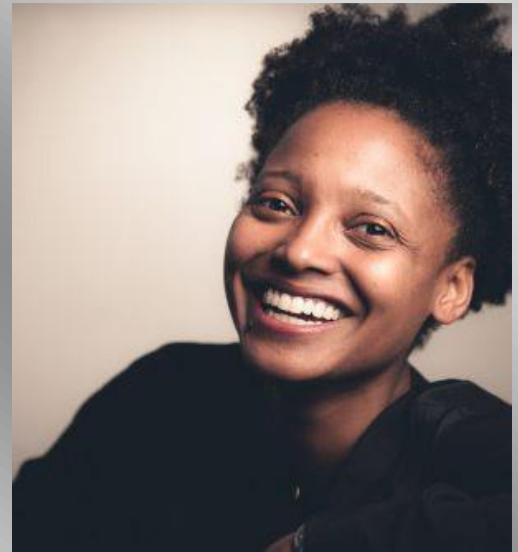
Donald Morrill's debut novel, *Beaut* (May 2018) received the Lee Smith Novel Prize from Carolina Wren Press. Morrill is the author of three volumes of poetry, *Awaiting Your Impossibilities* (2015 Florida Book Award), *At the Bottom of the Sky* and *With Your Back to Half the Day*, as well as four books of nonfiction, *Impetuous Sleeper*, *The Untouched Minutes* (River Teeth Literary Nonfiction Prize), *Sounding for Cool*, and *A Stranger's Neighborhood*.

Saturday, June 16



Corrinna Vallianatos's story collection, *My Escapee*, won the 2011 AWP Grace Paley Prize for Short Fiction, selected by Jhumpa Lahiri, and was published by the University of Massachusetts Press in October 2012. Her stories have appeared in *Tin House*, *McSweeney's*, *A Public Space*, *Epoch*, *Gettysburg Review*, *Cincinnati Review*, *The Collagist*, and elsewhere, and included as one of "100 Other Distinguished Stories of 2008" in the *Best American Short Stories 2009* anthology.

Tracy K. Smith was appointed the 22nd United States Poet Laureate in 2017. Her new book, *Wade in the Water*, was published in April 2018. She is the author of the critically acclaimed memoir *Ordinary Light* (Knopf, 2015) and three books of poetry. Her collection *Life on Mars* won the 2012 Pulitzer Prize and was selected as a *New York Times* Notable Book. *Duende* won the 2006 James Laughlin Award from the Academy of American Poets. *The Body's Question* was the winner of the 2002 Cave Canem Poetry Prize. She is the Roger S. Berlind '52 Professor in the Humanities at Princeton University.



Juliana Gray's most recent poetry collection is *Honeymoon Palsy* (Measure Press 2017). She is also the author of *Roleplay* (Dream Horse Press 2012, winner of the Orphic Prize and the Eugene Paul Nassar Prize), and *The Man Under My Skin* (River City Publishing 2005), as well as the chapbook *Anne Boleyn's Sleeve* (Winged City Chapbook Press 2013). Her poems have appeared in *Best American Poetry*, *The Hopkins Review*, *32 Poems*, and other journals, and her humor writing has appeared in *McSweeney's Internet Tendency*.

Stefan Kiesbye's stories, essays, and reviews have appeared in the *Wall Street Journal*, *Publishers Weekly*, and in the *Los Angeles Times*. His first book, *Next Door Lived a Girl*, won the Low Fidelity Press Novella Award, and has been translated into German, Dutch, and Spanish. *Your House Is on Fire*, *Your Children All Gone* made *EW's* Must List and was named one of the best books of 2012 by *Slate* editor Dan Kois.

Ars Vivendi Verlag released the The LA Noir *Fluchtpunkt Los Angeles* (Vanishing Point) in February 2015, and *The Staked Plains*, a novella, was published by [Saddle Road Press](#) that same year. The Gothic novel *Knives, Forks, Scissors, Flames* (Panhandler Books) came out in October 2016.



SJ Sindu was born in Sri Lanka and raised in Massachusetts. Sindu is the author of the novel *Marriage of a Thousand Lies*, which won the Publishing Triangle Edmund White Award for Debut Fiction and is a finalist for the Lambda Literary Award, and which was selected by the American Library Association as a Stonewall Honor Book. Sindu is also the author of the hybrid fiction and nonfiction chapbook *I Once Met You But You Were Dead*, which won the Split Lip Press Turnbuckle Chapbook Contest. A 2013 Lambda Literary Fellow, Sindu holds a PhD in Creative Writing from Florida State University, and currently teaches at Ringling College of Art & Design.

Elizabeth Engelman received her MFA from the University of Tampa, where she was honored with the Outstanding Graduate Award. She also holds an MA in Poetry from Lancaster University. In May 2017, her essay “Mother Tongue” was published by *The New York Times*. She was the recipient of the 2017 Emerging Writer Award from the Key West Literary Seminar, and her essays have been published in *Endeavor Magazine*, a publication of the American Society for Deaf Children. In 2014, her poem “Filling Empty Spaces” was published in *LETTERS*, Yale’s Literary & Art Magazine. She writes the blog www.ondeafness.com and lives with her family in Dunedin, Florida.



Jessica Anthony is the author of *The Convalescent* (McSweeney’s/Grove), an ALA Adult Notable Book and Barnes and Noble “Discover Great New Writers” selection, and *Chopsticks* (Penguin/Razorbill), a multimedia novel created in collaboration with designer Rodrigo Corral. *Chopsticks*, called a “21st Century Novel” by the *Los Angeles Times*, was an Amazon Book of the Month and won App of the Year. Anthony’s short stories can be found in *Best New American Voices*, *Best American Nonrequired Reading*, *McSweeney’s*, *The Idaho Review*, *Pear Noir!*.