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July 26, 2017

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Hugo House Announces 2017-2018 Lineup for Word Works: Writers on Writing

Event Dates

Kelly Link on the vampire as a flexible metaphor: Sept. 8

Mary Ruefle on imagination: Oct. 13

Jess Walter on narrative time: Dec. 6

Ruth Ozeki on the craft and art of writing: Feb. 23

Ada Limón on excavating loss: April 14

Ben Lerner on the novel as a curatorial form: August 9

+ Charles Johnson: March 29

SEATTLE, WA—Hugo House is pleased to announce the writers appearing for the 2017–2018 season of Word Works: Writers on Writing, which will feature craft talks by **Kelly Link**, **Mary Ruefle**, **Jess Walter**, **Ruth Ozeki**, **Charles Johnson**, **Ada Limón**, and **Ben Lerner**.

Word Works talks draw back the curtain on the process of writing and examine how language works to inspire and provoke new ideas. Through live close readings of the writer’s own or others’ work, these events focus on writing as process rather than finished product.

“Writing for us is a verb, as well as a noun,” says Hugo House’s executive director, Tree Swenson. “The Word Works series—one of the most writerly things we present—is an opportunity to see and hear words being shaped and discussed by nationally recognized writers.”

From the nuts and bolts of time in fiction to the boundless forms of the human imagination, this upcoming season features a wonderfully varied presentation of talks, which are designed to apply to writers of all genres as well as illuminate the page for readers. The visiting writers are encouraged to take a multimedia approach to their talks—incorporating slideshows, videos, or other visuals—for an engaging and lively presentation.

An onstage conversation with a notable critic, editor, or writer will follow each talk. In conjunction with their talks, Link, Ruefle, Ozeki, Limón, and Lerner will also teach one- or two-day classes—open to the general public—at Hugo House.

The upcoming season coincides with Hugo House's move into a new home on the site of their old facility across from Cal Anderson Park in early 2018. As with most development projects, the anticipated move-in date is subject to change; venues for select events will be announced closer to the individual event dates.

More information on events and classes can be found at hugohouse.org.

Contact Molly Woolbright at molly@hugohouse.org or (206) 453-1937 for press passes to events.

About the Writers

Kelly Link is the author of the collections *Stranger Things Happen*, *Magic for Beginners*, *Pretty Monsters*, and *Get in Trouble*. Her short stories have been published in *The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction*, *The Best American Short Stories*, and *Prize Stories: The O. Henry Awards*. She has received a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. She and Gavin J. Grant have co-edited a number of anthologies, including multiple volumes of *The Year's Best Fantasy and Horror* and, for young adults, *Steampunk!* and *Monstrous Affections*. She is the co-founder of Small Beer Press and co-edits the occasional zine *Lady Churchill's Rosebud Wristlet*.

Mary Ruefle has written numerous books of poetry, including *My Private Property*, *Indeed I Was Pleased with the World*, and *The Adamant*, which won the Iowa Poetry Prize. She is also the author of the essay collection *Madness, Rack, and Honey*; a book of erasures, *A Little White Shadow*; and a collection of fiction, *The Most of It*. She has received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Guggenheim Foundation, as well as a Whiting Writers' Award and an Award in Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Her work has been anthologized in *Best American Poetry*, *Great American Prose Poems* (2003), *American Alphabets: 25 Contemporary Poets* (2006), and *The Next American Essay* (2002).

Jess Walter is the author of six novels, one book of short stories, and one nonfiction book. His novel *The Zero* (2006) was a National Book Award and PEN/USA Literary Fiction Finalist, and his novel, *Citizen Vince* (2005), won an Edgar Allan Poe Award. His most recent collection of stories, *We Live in Water* (2013) was long-listed for The Story Prize, the Frank O'Connor Short Story Award, and winner of the Pacific Northwest Booksellers Award. His work has been translated into 30 languages, and his essays, short fiction, criticism, and journalism have been widely published, in *Best American Short Stories*, *Best American Nonrequired Reading*, *Harper's*, *Esquire*, *McSweeney's*, *Byliner*, *Playboy*, *ESPN the Magazine*, *Details*, and many others.

Ruth Ozeki is a novelist, filmmaker, and Zen Buddhist priest. Her first two novels, *My Year of Meats* (1998) and *All Over Creation* (2003), have been

translated into 11 languages and published in 14 countries. Her most recent novel, *A Tale for the Time-Being* (2013), won the LA Times Book Prize, was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize and the National Book Critic's Circle Award, and has been published in over 30 countries. Her work of personal nonfiction, *The Face: A Time Code* (2016), was published by Restless Books as part of their groundbreaking series called *The Face*. Ozeki's documentary and dramatic independent films, including *Halving the Bones*, have been shown on PBS, at the Sundance Film Festival, and at colleges and universities across the country. She lives in British Columbia and New York City, and is currently the Elizabeth Drew Professor of Creative Writing at Smith College.

Charles Johnson is Professor Emeritus at University of Washington and author most recently of *The Way of the Writer: Reflections on the Art and Craft of Storytelling*. He has published widely and is the author of four novels, three story collections, a young adult book, numerous collections of nonfiction, and over 20 screenplays. His novel *Middle Passage* won the National Book Award for Fiction in 1990, making him the first African-American male to win the prize since Ralph Ellison in 1953. His novel *Oxherding Tale* was awarded the 1983 Washington State Governor's Award for Literature; *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*, a story collection, was one of five finalists for the 1987 PEN/Faulkner Award; and *Being and Race* won a 1989 Governor's Award for Literature. In 2001, Johnson received the Pacific Northwest Writers Association's Achievement Award "for distinguished professional achievement and for enhancing the stature of Northwest literature."

Ada Limón is the author of four books of poetry, including *Bright Dead Things*, which was named a finalist for the 2015 National Book Award in Poetry, a finalist for the Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award, a finalist for the 2015 National Book Critics Circle Award, and one of the Top Ten Poetry Books of the Year by *The New York Times*. Her other books include *Lucky Wreck*, *This Big Fake World*, and *Sharks in the Rivers*. She serves on the faculty of Queens University of Charlotte low-residency MFA program and the 24Pearl Street online program for the Provincetown Fine Arts Work Center. She also works as a freelance writer splitting her time between Lexington, Kentucky and Sonoma, California.

Ben Lerner is the author of three books of poetry (*The Lichtenberg Figures*, *Angle of Yaw*, and *Mean Free Path*), two novels (*Leaving the Atocha Station* and *10:04*) and a work of criticism (*The Hatred of Poetry*). He has been a Fulbright Scholar, a finalist for the National Book Award, a Howard Foundation Fellow, a Guggenheim Fellow, and a MacArthur Fellow. In 2011 he won the "Preis der Stadt Münster für internationale Poesie", making him the first American to receive this honor. Lerner teaches at Brooklyn College, where he was named a Distinguished Professor of English in 2016.

About Hugo House

Hugo House opens the literary world to everyone who loves books or has a drive to write—giving people a place to read words, hear words, and make their own words better through writing classes, youth programs, readings and events, and residencies.

Hugohouse.org

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Open hours: Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and during classes and events