



March 19, 2019
Contact: Katie Prince
Marketing & Communications Manager
katie@hugohouse.org

Announcing a conversation on indie publishing with Fiona McCrae, director and publisher of Graywolf Press

Seattle, WA—To celebrate 45 years of adventurous publishing, Graywolf Press director and publisher Fiona McCrae will return to the Northwest to discuss the press's journey to becoming one of the most renowned literary publishers in the country.

To date, Graywolf's books and authors have received, among other honors, the Nobel Prize for Literature, the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry, the Man Booker Prize, the National Book Critics Circle Award, and the National Book Award.

"It's a long view back across forty-five years from today," McCrae said. "What I hope stands out above all is the consistent quality of our writers, and I feel proud (and a little astonished) to have been at the helm for 25 of those years. It's enormously gratifying to think of the many writers we have launched, as well as those whose careers we have been privileged to shepherd across multiple books. We are so grateful to celebrate with the entire community—readers, booksellers, reviewers, presenters, and donors—that has created so many opportunities for Graywolf to flourish."

Graywolf Press was founded in 1974 by Scott Walker; its first home was in Port Townsend, Wash., where it shared a space with Copper Canyon Press. Graywolf's first publications were limited-edition chapbooks of poetry, which were printed on a letterpress and hand sewn by Walker and his colleagues.

At the event, Hugo House executive director Tree Swenson, who was serving as Copper Canyon's director and publisher when Graywolf got its start, will join McCrae for an on-stage conversation about independent publishing and the distinctive editorial eye needed to continue publishing essential voices.

"Under Fiona McCrae's astute leadership, Graywolf Press has published some of our country's most vital books," Swenson said. "It's such a treat to have her join us and offer her insights on publishing and editing. What a rare opportunity: the combo of her talk and a chance to take a class."

This free event will be held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 2. Earlier that same day, McCrae will teach a class, [The Art of Editing](#), from 1–4 p.m.

About the Speakers

Fiona McCrae has been publisher of Minneapolis-based Graywolf Press since 1994, following eleven years with the British publishers Faber and Faber, of which the last

three were spent in Faber's office in Boston. Authors that Fiona has published at Graywolf include Elizabeth Alexander, Charles Baxter, Per Petterson, Salvatore Scibona, and Percival Everett. She currently serves on the boards of the National Book Foundation and the Anderson Center. Fiona received the Editor's Award from *Poets & Writers* in 2017 and the Golden Colophon Award for leadership from the Community of Literary Magazines and Presses in 2014.

Tree Swenson has been the executive director of Hugo House since early 2012. She previously spent ten years as executive director of the Academy of American Poets in New York, where she launched the Poem-a-Day program and started the annual Poetry & the Creative Mind event at Lincoln Center. Swenson was the executive director and publisher at Copper Canyon Press, which she co-founded, for twenty years. The press produced books from poets including Nobel Laureates and Pulitzer Prize-winners, and garnered numerous national awards. She also served as director of programs at the Massachusetts Cultural Council and is a former board president of the Association of Writers and Writing Programs (AWP). She holds an MPA degree from the Kennedy School at Harvard.

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, readings and events, and residencies.

hugohouse.org

[Facebook.com/HugoHouse](https://www.facebook.com/HugoHouse)

Twitter: [@HugoHouse](https://twitter.com/HugoHouse)

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