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**Contact:**  
Katie Prince  
katie@hugohouse.org

## **Ruth Joffre Named 2020–21 Prose Writer-in-Residence at Hugo House**

**Seattle, WA**—Author and community organizer Ruth Joffre has been named as Hugo House’s newest prose writer-in-residence, one of the longest running programs of Seattle’s hub for writers.

A graduate of Cornell University and the Iowa Writers’ Workshop, Joffre is the author of the story collection *Night Beast* (Grove Atlantic/Black Cat, 2018), which was longlisted for The Story Prize. Her fiction and poetry have appeared in numerous journals and magazines, and her interview series with authors, editors, and curators is published on the *Kenyon Review* blog.

“Ruth Joffre has been an active member of the literary community in Seattle for years, and has lent her talents to Hugo House as an instructor and a participant in multiple readings, including a recent Hugo Literary Series performance,” Executive Director Tree Swenson said. “We are so pleased that she will be joining us again, this time in the crucial role of writer-in-residence.”

As co-organizer of the Fight for Our Lives performance series, which advocates for communities targeted by divisive politics and systemic oppression (queer, trans, incarcerated, migrants, womxn, people of color), Joffre brings grassroots organizing and advocacy skills and knowledge to Hugo House along with her experience as a creative writing instructor.

“As a creative writing instructor and practitioner, I believe in expansiveness: experiencing as much of the world as you can, writing as much as you can and as often as life allows, reading voraciously, studying people carefully, and constantly updating your writing toolkit,” Joffre wrote. “My time as the writer-in-residence will be devoted to fostering that expansiveness in others and providing a safe space for writers of all backgrounds to learn and grow in their craft.”

As writer-in-residence, Joffre will have access to office space and a monthly stipend to meet Seattle-area writers for free hour-long appointments while working to complete a collection of flash fiction.

“My current project, called *A Girl Walks on the Moon and Other Stories*, explores the concept of ‘girlhood’ and the narratives we’ve constructed around it through multiple genre lenses, including realism, science fiction, fantasy, horror, and fabulism,” Joffre wrote. “The collection mines the intersections of gender, sexuality, adversity, and the body in order to capture the multiplicity and limitless possibility of girlhood and all it entails.”

Joining poetry writer-in-residence Laura Da’, Joffre’s term begins September 15 and runs through June 2021 with an option to renew for an additional year.

**About Ruth Joffre**

Ruth Joffre is the author of the story collection *Night Beast*, which was longlisted for The Story Prize. Her fiction and poetry have appeared or are forthcoming in *Kenyon Review*, *Gulf Coast*, *Pleiades*, *Prairie Schooner*, *The Masters Review*, *Lightspeed*, *Nashville Review*, and elsewhere. Her months-long interview series with the authors, editors, and curators of craft books, essays, and resources is freely available on the *Kenyon Review* blog. A graduate of Cornell University and the Iowa Writers' Workshop, Ruth lives in Seattle, where she teaches at Hugo House and co-organizes the Fight for Our Lives performance series.

### **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, residencies, resources, and youth programs. Hugo House has moved its programming—classes, events, and free programs—entirely online in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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