



Mississippi Institute Of Arts and Letters

Now in its 45th year!

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The annual awards banquet was held on June 3 in Oxford, Mississippi, at the Inn at Ole Miss to honor the 2023 MIAL award recipients. A full weekend of activities included a tour of Greenfield Farm, a future writer’s retreat, a reception at Southside Gallery, a morning bus tour of Oxford, and readings and signings at Off Square Books.



MIAL President Traci Stover

The **Noel Polk Lifetime Achievement Award** was bestowed upon **Panny Flautt Mayfield**, Clarksdale. A lifelong resident of the Mississippi Delta, Mayfield has lived in Clarksdale since



Panny Mayfield & Stuart Rockoff

graduating with honors from the University of Mississippi in 1957. An award-winning journalist, Mayfield has photographed and written about blues and gospel music, playwright Tennessee Williams, and Delta life for decades. With support from Coahoma Community College, Mayfield helped organize the Mississippi Delta Tennessee Williams Festival in 1993 and directed, publicized and documented the event until 2018. Her book *Live from the Mississippi Delta*, published by University Press of Mississippi in 2017, showcases more than two hundred photographs documenting music from the region as well as reports of international superstars who traveled from around the world to pay homage to the legends who influenced their music.

Tupelo Reads was honored with a **Special Achievement Award**.

Started in 2011 as part of Mayor Jack Reed’s task force on education, Tupelo Reads is a volunteer–run partnership between the Lee County/Tupelo Library, Reed’s Gumtree Bookstore, the Boys and Girls Club, and the City of Tupelo. This cooperation of various community groups plus the outpouring of support from individuals and the outreach of the program sets Tupelo Reads apart and makes it worth of this recognition. Chairman Lisa Reed accepted the award on behalf of the committee.



Friends and Supporters of Tupelo Reads



2023 Award Winners

(Pictured above, top row, left to right)

- **Johnny Rawls**, a Purvis, Mississippi, singer/songwriter, received the Music Composition (Contemporary) award for his album, *Going Back to Mississippi*, an album he created to honor his heritage and home of Mississippi and the rich history of blues and soul musicians. Rawls began touring as a solo artist in 1985 and has released more than fifteen albums.
- **Coulter Fussell**, Water Valley, received the Visual Arts award for her exhibit, *My Love For You is Deathless*, exhibited at Southside Gallery in Oxford. Coulter produces quilt-works using discarded and donated textiles as her sole materials.
- **Berkley Hudson**, a native of Columbus, Mississippi, was the recipient of the Life Writing award for his book *O. N. Pruitt's Possum Town: Photographing Trouble and Resilience in the American South* (The University of North Carolina Press).
- **Linda Williams Jackson**, a native of Rosedale, Mississippi, received the Youth Literature award for her most recent book, *The Lucky Ones* (Candlewick Press). Inspired by Robert Kennedy's 1967 Poverty Tour of the Mississippi Delta, *The Lucky Ones* is loosely based on Jackson's own family experiences.
- **Robert S. McElvaine**, recently retired professor of history at Millsaps College, was the recipient of the Nonfiction Award for *The Times They Were a-Changin': 1964, the Year the Sixties Arrived and the Battle Lines of Today Were Drawn* (Arcade).

(Pictured above, bottom row, left to right)

- **Tupelo Reads**, a partnership between Lee County Library, Reed's Gumtree Bookstore, the Boys and Girls Club, and the City of Tupelo. The impact of Tupelo Reads is far-reaching and the partnership between all the entities involved is unique.
- **David Rae Morris** received the Photography award for his book, *Love, Daddy: Letters from My Father* (University Press of Mississippi). *Love, Daddy* weaves together twenty-three years of self-portraits, David's photographs of his father, writer Willie Morris, and his father's letters to David.
- **Panny Flautt Mayfield** received the Noel Polk Lifetime Achievement Award. She directed, publicized, and documented the Mississippi Delta Tennessee Williams Festival from 1993 until 2018. Her book *Live from the Mississippi Delta* (University Press of Mississippi) documents music from the region.
- **Steve Rouse** received the Music Composition (Classical) award for *Where Beauty Persists*. A native of Moss Point, Rouse received his BA from the University of Southern Mississippi, his doctorate from the University of Michigan, and spent his career at the University of Louisville.
- **Melissa Ginsburg**, Associate Professor of Creative Writing and Literature at the University of Mississippi, received the poetry award for her poetry collection, *Doll Apollo*. Her poetry has been published in numerous magazines, including the *New Yorker*, *Image*, *Fence*, and *Southwest Review*.

Awards Banquet Photos



Book Signing at Off Square Books



2023 MIAL Award Recipients



Co-banquet chairs Jimmy Thomas & Sarah Frances Hardy



Richard Howorth and Claiborne Barksdale



Banquet Guests



Nominee Diane Cox McPhail, Homer & Pamela Dupree



Nominee Allie Stuart Povall & Guests



Panny Flautt Mayfield and Family

MARK YOUR 2024 CALENDAR

The 45th ANNUAL MIAL AWARDS BANQUET, JUNE 8, 2024, IN JACKSON

MISSISSIPPI MUSEUM OF ART

2023-2024 MIAL Membership Form

2023–2024 MIAL Membership Dues

Please complete and return this form. Payment may also be made from our website:

<http://www.ms-arts-letters.org/membership.html>

Name:

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Please make payments to MIAL and return to:

CHECK the appropriate membership category:

- Student \$15
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Jan Taylor, Treasurer
 P. O. Box 2346
 Jackson, MS 39225-2346

Contributions to MIAL are recognized by the IRS as tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

*Levels recognized in newsletter, awards banquet program booklet, and website.

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Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters Award Nomination MIAL members are encouraged to make nominations to honor the artistic achievements of living Mississippians (current residents or former ones with continuing, significant ties to the state). Judges will consider only work shown, published, or performed in **2023**. Members may nominate more than one individual in any category, and MIAL members may self-nominate. Please make additional copies of this form if needed. **Nominations should include a complete address and e-mail** (if applicable). Cookbooks, edited works, and self-published books will not be accepted for nomination. Similarly, images on personal websites and social media platforms are not eligible for nomination of the Visual Arts and Photography awards. All nominations are subject to board approval.

Only MIAL members may nominate. Not a member? Please consider joining.
Membership form on page 7 or join online: <https://www.ms-arts-letters.org>

Award Categories:

FICTION (novel, short story collection, etc.)

LIFE WRITING (personal narratives, autobiography, memoir, and travel writing)

NONFICTION (research-based books, including academic studies, popular history, biography, and journalism)

POETRY Eligible are up to 15 poems published individually or in a collection (some poems in the collection may have been published earlier).

YOUTH LITERATURE (writing or illustration) Eligible are fiction or nonfiction works including picture books, chapter books, middle grade, and young adult.

MUSIC COMPOSITION—CLASSICAL (song, opera, composition, instrumental music, etc.) Submit evidence of initial performance or publication. Submit a digital or hard copy of the score. Evidence of initial performance or publication may also be submitted in digital or hard copy format.

MUSIC COMPOSITION—CONTEMPORARY (blues, country music, jazz, rock, etc.) Submit the commercial recording. At least five original compositions must be presented.

PHOTOGRAPHY (Film or digital; in color, black and white or both; a published book, a public exhibition or other public presentation) Eligible are thematic bodies of work, or up to 15 individual images. Submit nomination by emailing a PDF of images of nominated work or mailing a thumb drive containing images of the nomination. Printed photographs will also be accepted.

VISUAL ARTS (painting, sculpture, drawing, print, graphic arts, etc.) Eligible are thematic bodies of work, or up to 15 individual images. Submit nomination by emailing a PDF of images of nominated work or mailing a thumb drive containing images of the nomination.

Deadline: Nominations must be postmarked on or before **January 15, 2024**. Published books will be supplied, so it is not necessary to send books with your nomination. Please send the nomination form with supporting material, if needed, to the appropriate category chair listed below.

POETRY

Mary Thompson
221 Clark Street
Clarksdale, MS 38614
marymckthompson@gmail.com

MUSIC COMPOSITION (Contemporary)

Alphonso Sanders
4106 Highway 8
Cleveland, MS 38732
asandersmusic@yahoo.com

MUSIC COMPOSITION (Classical)

Donzell Lee
1000 ASU Drive #175
Alcorn State, MS 39096
donzell@hotmail.com

YOUTH LITERATURE

JoAnn Morris
801 Arlington Street
Jackson, MS 39202
jprichmo44@gmail.com

NONFICTION

Ted Atkinson
1000 East Broad Street
West Point, MS 39773
Tba34@msstate.edu

PHOTOGRAPHY

R. Kim Rushing
406 South 5th Avenue
Cleveland, MS 38732
kimrushing@bellsouth.net

VISUAL ARTS

George Bassi
Lauren Rogers Museum of Art
565 North Fifth Avenue
P. O. Box 1108
Laurel, MS 39441
gbassi@LRMA.org

FICTION

Marion Barnwell
850 Fairview Street
Jackson, MS 39202
mgbarnwell@bellsouth.net

LIFE WRITING

Lawrence Deas
2659 Lake Circle Dr.
Jackson, MS 39211
lawrence@listondeas.com

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

AWARD CATEGORY: _____ MEDIUM: _____

TITLE OF WORK: _____

FIRST SHOWN/PUBLISHED/PERFORMED: _____

NAME OF NOMINEE: _____

NOMINEE'S ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: HOME/CELL _____ WORK _____

E-MAIL _____

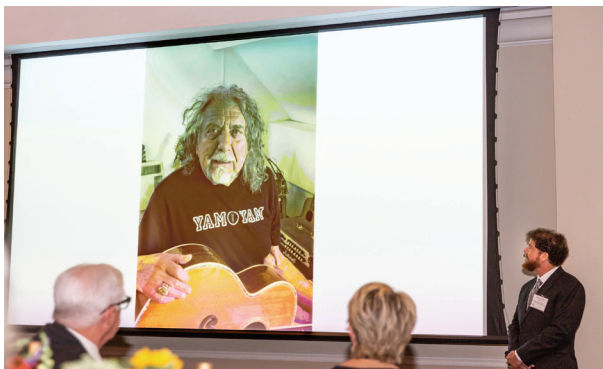
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PLEASE EXPLAIN THE NOMINEE'S MISSISSIPPI CONNECTION: _____

NAME OF MIAL MEMBER MAKING NOMINATION:

NOMINATOR'S ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ E-MAIL _____



Robert Plant sent greetings to Panny Mayfield from London



Guests enjoy the reception at Southside Gallery on Friday evening



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**MIAL Board of Governors met in September at the
Mississippi Museum of Art.**



*MIAL Board of Governors enjoying the Awards
Banquet*

IN MEMORIAM

Kenneth Holditch, 2022 Lifetime Achievement
Award, New Orleans, Louisiana
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