

Mississippi

Institute of Arts & Letters

46th Annual Awards Celebrating our 2025 Winners



Saturday, June 14
MUW Campus • Columbus, Mississippi



Noel Polk Lifetime Achievement Award
John Marszalek



ADAM WISSING

Music Composition
(Contemporary)
Staples Jr. Singers
Searching



T. WILLIAMS

Youth Literature
Allen R. Wells
Danté Plays His Blues



BEOWULF SHEEHAN

Poetry
Jessica Fisher
Daywork



MOGHEE MONTEITH

Citation of Merit
Erin Austen Abbott

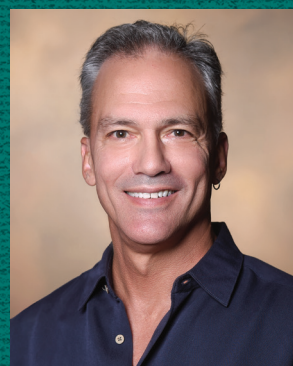


CARLYLE WOLFE LEE

Special Achievement Award
Thad Lee



Fiction
Max Hipp
*What Doesn't Kill You
Opens Your Heart*



PAUL LLEWISKI

Music Composition
(Classical)
John Wooton
Suíte Música del Corazón



AMERICA WORDEN

Photography
Adam Shemper
*Light in These Hills:
Oxford, Mississippi*



NICHOLAS NICHOLS

Life Writing
Julian Randall
*The Dead Don't Need Reminding:
In Search of Fugitives, Mississippi
and Black TV Nerd Sh*t*



BRUCE NEWMAN

Visual Arts
Charlie Buckley
*Charlie Buckley, Fischer
Galleries Exhibit*



BARRIER PHOTOGRAPHY

Nonfiction
Robert K. D. Colby
*An Unholy Traffic:
Slave Trading in the
Civil War South*

MIAL CELEBRATES MISSISSIPPI’S ARTISTS, MUSICIANS, AND WRITERS

In 1978 Noel Polk and Aubrey Lucas invited Governor William Winter, Cora Norman, Keith Dockery McLean, and other distinguished Mississippians to join them in forming the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters. These founding members knew that among Mississippi’s greatest riches are our artists, writers, and musicians, who must be supported, nurtured, and recognized.

The prestigious awards, first made in 1980, are presented in nine categories: Fiction, Nonfiction, Youth Literature, Visual Art, Music Composition (Contemporary) and Music Composition (Classical), Photography, Poetry, and Life Writing. Initially, awards were made in three categories only: Literature, Music, and Art. At the discretion of the Board of Governors, a special, lifetime, or career achievement award may also be given. Winners must be current Mississippi residents or have significant ties to the state. Recipients are awarded cash prizes and Mississippi-made gifts.

The Institute’s juried competition is one of a kind in the state. Our carefully selected judges, chosen from out of state, are prominent in their fields. MIAL is privately funded, self-perpetuating, and nonprofit.

Each annual awards gala, hosted by various cities around the state, is unique. Among past highlights was a 1983 banquet theme based on Aristophanes’s *The*

Frogs, a satiric literary competition. Another year, the Muses were the theme, based on a logo created by Terry Simmons. In 2002 Walter Anderson’s intricate flora and fauna painted on the walls of the Ocean Springs Civic Center served as a backdrop for violinist Michael Kimber, that year’s winner for Musical Composition (Classical). In 2003 a festive brunch was held at historic Fairview Inn in Jackson. In honor of the Institute’s Silver Anniversary Celebration in 2004, all past winners, along with current winners, were recognized and feted at palatial Stanton Hall in Natchez. A highlight of the 30th Anniversary Award Banquet, in Laurel, was the opening of an exhibition featuring MIAL award winners in Visual Art and Photography over the past

30 years. This exhibition was on view throughout the summer of 2009 at the Lauren Rogers Museum of Art and was a virtual Who’s Who of Mississippi artists. In accepting her 2003 Poetry award, Natasha Trethewey eloquently expressed the sentiments of many winners. “Today, I am so delighted by this honor,” she said, “because I know that it means you have welcomed me back home as daughter. I’m lucky to be from Mississippi, and I write because I want to make sense of and tell a fuller story of our rich and troubled past.” The list of past award recipients is a strong reflection of the talents of Mississippians and the artistic heritage of our state.

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 the previous year. Members may nominate more than one individual in any category. Nominations should include place and date of birth. Only MIAL members may nominate.

DEADLINE: Nominations must be postmarked on or before January 15. Attach the artist’s representative work (slides, photographs, CDs, books, etc.). Please mail the nomination to the appropriate address according to the awards category entered.

A nomination form and names of category chairs are available online or may be requested by telephone (662-523-0899) or mail (P.O. Box 2346, Jackson, MS 39225). Visit our website at www.ms-arts-letters.org.

MIAL WINNERS 1980–2024

Rod Moorhead, Greely Myatt, Thomas Nawrocki, Collier B. Parker, Ray Parrish, H.C. (Chris) Porter, Lee Renninger, James L. Seawright Jr., Paula Temple, Jennifer Torres, George Wardlaw, Wyatt Waters, Carlyle Wolfe (2), Mildred Nungester Wolfe

PHOTOGRAPHY

Marion Brown, Jane Rule Burdine, Oraien Catledge, Maude Schuyler Clay (5), Ashleigh Burke Coleman, Lucinda Devlin, Rita DeWitt, Rory Doyle, William Eggleston, Debra Ferguson, Allen Frame, Gretchen Haien, Birney Imes III (2), Will Jacks, Robert Townsend Jones Jr., Jack Kotz, John D. Lawrence, Kate Medley, Robyn Moore, Andrea Morales, David Rae Morris, Betty Press, Tom Rankin, Talbot Easton Selby, Jack Spencer, Eudora Welty, Milly Moorhead West (2), David Wharton (2), Hubert F. Worley Jr., Michael Loyd Young

POETRY

A. H. Jerriod Avant, Angela Ball (2), D.C. Berry (2), Molly McCully Brown, Tim Earley, Ann Fisher-Wirth, Melissa Ginsburg, Derrick Harriell, Ava Leavell Haymon, Brooks Haxton (3), T.R. Hummer, Aimee Nezhukumatathil, Joshua Nguyen, Catherine Pierce (3), R. Flowers Rivera, Paul Ruffin, C.T.Salazar, John Stone (2), Natasha Trethewey (3)

MUSIC (CONTEMPORARY)

Steve Azar, Bark (Tim & Susan Lee) (2), Eden Brent, Kate Campbell, Kristian Dambrino & Fish Michie, Caroline Herring (2), Claire Holley, Christone “Kingfish” Ingram, Mac McAnally, Shannon McNally, John Milham, Paul Overstreet, 3 Doors Down, Water Liars

MUSIC (CLASSICAL)

Milton Babbitt, Crafton Beck, David Caudill, Quincy C. Hilliard, Patrick Houlihan, Mark Howell, Samuel Jones (6), Michael Kimber, Douglas McConnell, Laurence M. Oden, Albert Oppenheimer, Andrew Owen, Shandy Phillips (2), Johnny Rawls, Steve Rouse (7), James S. Sclater (9),

Justin Sharp, Logan Skelton, William Grant Still, Luigi Zaninelli (5)

LIFE WRITING

Lee Durkee, Berkley Hudson, Teresa Nicholas

NOEL POLK LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Ann Abadie, Jere Allen, Walter Anderson, William Baggett, William Beckwith, Patti Carr Black, Sammy Britt, Andrew Bucci, Marshall Bouldin III, Myrna Colley-Lee, Ron Dale, Ellen Douglas, William R. Dunlap, William Ferris, Morgan Freeman, Shelby Foote, Mary D. Garrard, Mimi Garrard, Samuel Gore, Rea Hederman, Kenneth Holditch, Robert Ivy, Samuel Jones, Franke and Bern Keating, Panny Flautt Mayfield, Lee and Pup McCarty, Leontyne Price, John Ruskey, James Seawright, Elizabeth Spencer, Eudora Welty, Curtis Wilkie, Andrew Cary Young

CAREER ACHIEVEMENT IN THE PERFORMING ARTS

Jane Reid Petty

CITATION OF MERIT

ETV and Public Radio in Mississippi, Lemuria Bookstore, MPB’S Grassroots - Bill Ellison, MPB’S Highway 61 - Scott Barretta, Square Books, Thacker Mountain Radio, University Press of Mississippi

SPECIAL WRITING AWARD

Dorothy Abbott

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT

Marion Barnwell; Stephen Coleman, Center for the Study of Southern Culture (3): *Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*, *The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*, 24-volumes, *The Mississippi Encyclopedia*; Mississippi Delta Tennessee Williams Festival; *The Passions of Walter Anderson*, a creative collaboration; *Look Away, Look Away*, Patrick O’Connor; Nan Sanders; Tupelo Reads

FICTION

Sarah Adlakha, Howard Bahr (2), Tom Bailey, Frederick Barthelme, Rick Bass (2), Larry Brown, Ellen Douglas (3), Wylene Dunbar, Richard Ford (3), Tom Franklin, Ellen Gilchrist (3), Minrose Gwin, Becky Hagenston, Barry Hannah (2), Rebecca Hill, Michael Kardos, Taylor Kitchings, Michael Knight, Odie Lindsey, Beverly Lowry, Margaret McMullan (2), Louis Nordan (2), Walker Percy (2), Cynthia Shearer, Elizabeth Spencer, Donna Tartt, Tiffany Quoy Tyson, Jesmyn Ward, Brad Watson (2), Steve Yarbrough (2)

NONFICTION

Stephen Ambrose, Chalmers Archer, Michael B. Ballard, Patti Carr Black, Douglas A. Blackmon, Minor Ferris Buchanan, Will D. Campbell, Edward Cohen, Joseph Crespino (2), Bobby DeLaughter, David Herbert Donald, Jeff Durstewitz, Charles W. Eagles, John T. Edge, W. Ralph Eubanks, Mary Garrard, Eddie S. Glaude, Jr, Susan Haltom, Robert S. McElvaine, Margaret McMullan, Suzanne Marrs, Christopher Maurer, Dennis Mitchell, Willie Morris, Jere Nash, Julian Rankin, Joseph Reiff, Timothy B. Smith, Andy Taggart, Clifton Taulbert, Natasha Trethewey, Jason Morgan Ward, Jesmyn Ward, Ruth Williams, Charles Reagan Wilson

YOUTH LITERATURE

Linda Williams Jackson, Angie Thomas (3), Deborah Wiles

VISUAL ARTS

Jere H. Allen, Charlie Buckley, Jean Cappadonna-Nichols, Charles Carraway, Charles Crossley, Ron Dale, Jennifer Drinkwater, William Dunlap (3), Martha Ferris, J J Foley, Ke Francis, Coulter Fussell (2), Sam Gilliam, Rolland Golden, Sheila Stott Gourlay, Randy Hayes, Cathy Hegman, Birney Imes III, Valerie Jaudon (2), Stacey Johnson, Sylvain Klaus, Ed McGowin, Gwendolyn Magee, Zarah Maranian, Kenneth W. Marlow, Brandon Moon,

MIAL MEMBERSHIP FORM

Remember that only MIAL members may nominate. To join MIAL and support the arts in Mississippi visit our website at www.ms-arts-letters.org or use the form below.

Name	Telephone		
Mailing address			
E-mail address			
Check:	☐ I am RENEWING my membership	☐ I am a NEW MEMBER	
Check appropriate membership category:	☐ Student \$15	☐ Supporter \$35	☐ Contributing \$75
	☐ Sustaining \$150	☐ Institutional \$150	☐ Patron \$500
			☐ Benefactor \$1000+

Please make payments to MIAL and return to Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters, 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.