The 13th Annual

CITYLIT FESTIVAL

April 15–16, 2016

E. Ethelbert Miller
Claudia Rankine
Paul Lisicky
D. Watkins
Lester Spence
Stanley Plumly
Andrew Motion
Juliette Wells
Susan Muaddi Darraj
Kathy Flann
Amber Sparks
Laura Shovan
Reggie Harris
Jehanne Dubrow
Elisabeth Dahl
Celeste Doaks
Barbara Paca
Danielle Shapiro
Marlene Trestman
Garinè Isassi
Jill Coupe
Shirley Brewer
Deborah Arnold
Sheri Venema
Elizabeth Hazen
Friday, April 15 at 7:00 pm
Claudia Rankine
Poet and Author, Citizen: An American Lyric
Maryland Institute College of Art
Falvey Hall, Brown Center
1301 W. Mount Royal Avenue, 21217

In Celebration of National Poetry Month
In Reflection Upon the Anniversary of the Baltimore Protests, Hosted by Marc Steiner

7:00 pm  Welcome by Samuel Ho, President, MICA
7:05 pm  Acknowledgments by Gregg Wilhelm, Executive Director, CityLit Project
7:10 pm  Introduction by Dr. Carla Hayden, CEO, Enoch Pratt Free Library
7:15 pm  Reading and Conversation
          Hosted by Marc Steiner, WEEA

CLAUDIA RANKINE APPEARANCES

Saturday, April 16 at 10:30 am
Claudia Rankine at Enoch Pratt Free Library
Pennsylvania Avenue Branch
1531 North Avenue, 21217

10:30 am  Presentation by West Baltimore Students in partnership with Dew More Baltimore
10:40 am  Opening Remarks:
          Gregg Wilhelm, Executive Director, CityLit Project
          Reggie Harris, Poets House, NYC
10:45 am  Claudia Rankine reading
11:15 am  Conversation and Q&A
11:45 am  Book Signing

Presented by CityLit Project and the Enoch Pratt Free Library
Book sales courtesy of The Enoch Pratt Free Library

Saturday April 16th
CityLit Festival
University of Baltimore Learning Commons
1415 Maryland Avenue (Near Poe Statue)

LOBBY
11:00 a.m.
Literary Marketplace
Browse literary magazines, small presses, reading series, and authors exhibiting in this first hour of the festival and all day long

11:45 a.m.
Reading from Pratt Poetry Prize winner
CityLit Festival opens with a reading from the Enoch Free Pratt Library Poetry Contest Winner

AUDITORIUM
12:00 p.m.
She Writes Press Authors
Founded in 2012 as a response to the barriers to traditional publishing, She Writes Press was created on the principle of connecting and serving women writers everywhere, offering a community for established and aspiring writers. Local SWP authors Jill McCroskey Coupe (The Stories at the Smoky Vines) and Garthi Sasiai (Start With the Backbeat) read from their newly published works and discuss this exciting new publishing platform and their experiences. Hosted by author and PR consultant Cherrie Woods.

1:00 p.m.
John Keats: Tragic Hero of Romanticism
A reading and conversation about the life and work of John Keats with Keats scholars for Andrew Motion of Johns Hopkins University (Keats and John Keats: Poet to Poet) and Stanley Flanly of the University of Maryland College Park (Prodigal Keats and The Immortal Evening: A Legendary Dinner with Keats, Wordsworth, and Lamb), including readings from their books. Motion is former UK Poet Laureate and Flanly is Maryland Poet Laureate. Hosted by poet, novelist, and journalist Rose Solari.

2:00 p.m.
Ladies Choice in Love: The 200th Anniversary of Jane Austen’s Emma
Jane Austen wrote of Emma Woodhouse, “I am going to take a heroine whom no one but myself will much like.” Though spoiled and headstrong, and a departure from Austen’s usual heroines whose focus was on marriage and financial security, Emma is a secure young woman who carefully considers whether those around her are worthy of her attentions. Austen scholar and Goucher professor Dr. Juliette Wells discusses her new annotated edition of Emma and moderates a conversation with panelists whose lives and works have been influenced by Austen’s novel. (The celebration continues with English Country Dancing on Gordon Plaza outside the Learning Commons at 3:00 p.m.)

3:00 p.m.
The Art of the Short Story
Susan Muaddi Darraj (A Curious Land, winner of the AWP 2015 Grace Paley Award for Short Fiction), Kathy Flann (Get a Grip, winner of the 2014 George Garrett Fiction Prize), and Amber Sparks (The Unfinished World) read from their works and discuss their different approaches to, and love of, the short form. Hosted by University of Baltimore Assistant Professor Jane Delury.

4:00 p.m.
Paul Lisicky
Paul Lisicky’s writing has been called “elegant, precise, and sensitive” (Slate). His new memoir from Graywolf Press is part elegy, part natural history, and all memoir. The Narrow Door: A Memoir of Friendship traces two of Lisicky’s long-term relationships, the chaotic intensity of friendships forged when young, and the beliefs about ourselves and
the ones we love that we hang on to long after they’re no longer here. Hosted by Jen Michalski, author of From Here and The Tide King

5:00 p.m.
Writing the Biography
Barbara Paci (Kath Starr Rose (1896-1965): Revelations of African American Life in Maryland and the World); Marlene Trestman (Fair Labor Lay-er: The Remarkable Life of New Deal Attorney and Supreme Court Advocate Bessie Mangelin), and Danielle Shap-ir (John Vassos: Industrial Design for Modern Life) read from their work and discuss the researching and writing of biographies, the challeng-es of narrative structure, and bring-ing their subjects to life. Hosted by WYPR reporter and senior news producer Mary Rose Madden.

GORDON PLAZA
Near Poe Statue
3:00 p.m.
English Country Dancing Lesson
Balls and country dances were where Austen’s characters could meet and flirt with possible mar-rriage partners, and where many dramatic moments in her novels took place. Here’s your chance to enjoy the dances you may have seen in film adaptations of Aus-ten’s works. A professional caller, April Bluim, will lead participants in a lesson and several dances, with musical accompaniment. No part-ner necessary. (In case of rain, this event will move to the Student Cen-ter second floor lounge.)

AUTHOR SALON
ROOM 201, 2nd floor
12:00–6:00 p.m.
Curated readings showcasing local authors, journals, reading series, and literary arts organizations.

12:00 p.m.
The Light Ekphrastic
The Light Ekphrastic is a quarterly online journal dedicated to the creation of new written and visual artworks through ekphrastic col-laboration between contributors. (Ekphrasis is a form of writing, mostly poetry, in which the author describes another work of art, usu-ally visual) Readers include Ann Bracken, Edward Doyle-Gillespie, Kevin Faus, Seda Lee, Hearber Moss, Tim Singleton, and Matthew Zingg. Hosted by Jenny O’Grady thelightekphrastic.com

1:00 p.m.
The Baltimore Review
The Baltimore Review, established in 1996, is a journal of poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction published online quarterly, with an annu-al print compilation. The Baltimore Review, which publishes writers from all over the world, is happy to present four local writers who have published in its pages: Jen Hirt, Vickie Fang, Matthew Hoblen, and skillfully Joley Kindred. Hosted by TBR editor Seth Saywors. baltimorereview.org

2:00 p.m.
Maryland Writers’ Association
The Maryland Writers’ Association is a volunteer-driven, non-profit organiza-tion dedicated to supporting the art, business, and craft of writ-ing in all its forms. Featured will be readings from some of the 2014-2016 MWA writing contest winners and judges. Featuring Ellen Herbert, winner in the novel category with The Last Government Cove (Appren-tice House 2015). Hosted by Laila Norohna, MWA President, and Holly Morse-Ellington. MWA Vice Presi-dent www.marylandwriters.org

3:00 p.m.
The Loch Raven Review
The Loch Raven Review showcases the poetry, short fiction, essays, and translations of both well-known and emerging writers who demon-strate excellence in their work. Readers include poet Bill Jones, poet Jennifer Kim, Man of Letters Dr. Thomas Dorsett M.D., and non-fiction writer Deborah Rudacille. thelochravenreview.net

4:00 p.m.
New Mercury Readings
In the spirit of Maryland’s most famous contrarian, American Mer-cury editor H.L. Mencken, this monthly nonfiction reading series celebrates the creativity and the integrity of independent writers and journalists and a city where writing is both more powerful and stranger than fiction. Readers include Mary Valle and Mia Leving. Hosted by John Barry and Deborah Rudacille thenewmercuryreadings.com

5:00 p.m.
Smartsich Pace
Smartsich Pace is an independent nonprofit literary magazine that welcomes unsolicited submissions of poetry, translations of poetry book reviews, essays on poetry, and interviews with poets. It’s the home of Poets Q&A, the first interactive poetry forum on the Internet where readers ask questions of well-known poets: Donald Berger, Joyce S. Brown, Elizabeth Hazen, and Chris Mason read. Hosted by Editor and Founder Stephen Reichert.

UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE STUDENT CENTER
21 West Mount Royal Avenue

WRIGHT THEATER
5th Floor
12:00 p.m.
Making the Middle-Grade
Authors Elizabeth Dalzi (Genie Wishes), and Laura Shovan (The Last Fifth Grade of Emerson Elementary) read from their mid-dle-grade (readers age 8-12) works followed by a conversation with author and journalist Elizabeth Evitts Dickinson.

1:00 p.m.
Slam Competition
(open to the public)
Have a burning desire to express yourself? Love to get on stage in front of your friends and rock the mic? Hosted by spoken word slumiglary Stangus Hughes, and scored by a panel of judges who are dedicated to the art form, par-ticipants will have three minutes in each round to grace the stage and spit their finest wordsmithing with a packed house to cheer them on. Winners advance to the next round until the last poet is standing. Par-ticipants should arrive ten minutes prior to sign up online outside the theater.

2:00 p.m.
Passager: Growing and Glowing:
Emerging Older Writers
Join a robust conversation about being an older writer and what it involves in terms of identity, com-munity, and publishing. Panelists: Shari Vetena, Shirley Brown, and Deb Arnold. Hosted by University of Baltimore Associate Professor Kendra kopelle.

3:00 p.m.
The Borders of Truth: Poetry

4:00 p.m.
A Lifetime of Writing and Witnessing: E. Ethelbert Miller
Poet, activist, teacher, and DC Hall of Fame inductee E. Ethelbert Miller has devoted his life to literature and justice. Celebrate the publication of The Collected Poems of E. Ethelbert Miller with the poet and the book’s editor, Marymount University pro-fessor Kirsten Porter, who calls his words “a call for love and equality, a protest against oppression, an act for change.”

5:00 p.m.
Lester Spence and D. Watkins
Join Johns Hopkins political science professor Lester Spence (Knocking the Hustle: Against the Neoliberal Turn in Black Politics) and University of Baltimore creative writing profes-sor D. Watkins (The Beast Side) for a conversation on topics from last year’s civil unrest to this year’s mayoral race. Hosted by Ron Kipling, Williams, spoken word artist, human rights activist/organizer, and independent journalist.

BOGOMOLNY ROOM
5th Floor
1:00 and 4:00 p.m.
The Portable Journal
Ever wonder how a book becomes a book? Join us for this hand-made book workshop and instructors Meredith Purvus, Michelle Junct, and Mychal Zulaw will show you how paper and board (seemingly) magi-cally become book. In this two-hour session, they will guide you through making your very own portable journal, the perfect fit for a pocket or purse. (Two 2-hour sessions)

STUDENT CENTER
CAFÉ, Lobby
12:00–1:50 p.m.
Free Critiques
Receive free feedback on your 2-3 poems or 2-3 double-paced pages of prose (fiction or nonfiction) from published authors or publish-ing professionals including Pasi Balkan (novel), nonfiction), Amanda Foze (short fiction, novel), Jen Grow (short fiction), Barbara Morrison (poetry, memoir), Molly Morse-Ellington (fiction, nonfiction, play-writing), and Laila Norohna (poetry, memoir, fiction).

2:00–3:50 p.m.
City Lit Speed
Two hours of “speed dating” with lit-erary magazines, small presses, and reading series. Network and find the right opportunity to showcase your work. Participants are encouraged to join in at the top of the hour (2:00 and 3:00) or be folded in as spots become available.

4:00–6:00 p.m.
Agent Pitch
Pitch your project to a literary agent for feedback. Prepare a short pitch of no more than 250 words and bring 2 copies. Each writer will have 5-10 minutes at the discretion of the agent. A nonrefundable fee of $25 per person is payable online prior to the event. Visit the City Lit Festival page at www.citylitproject.org for infor-mation on the agent and reserving your spot.
Parking
1) Fitzgerald Garage: 80 W. Oliver Street
2) Maryland Avenue Garage: 1111 Maryland Avenue

Venues
3) UB Learning Commons
4) UB Student Center

Train, Bus, Light Rail, Circulator, Metro
www.ubalt.edu/transportation

Local Restaurants
(within a 10 minute walk)
- Barnes & Noble Cafe
- Two Boots Baltimore Pizzeria
- Soups On Baltimore
- The Brewer’s Art
- Chipotle
- Thai Landing
- Orale Pizza and Subs
- Starbucks
- City Cafe
- XS
- The Owl Bar

Claudia Rankine’s appearance as part of the CityLit Festival was made possible by a grant from the Maryland Humanities Council, through support from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of the NEH or the Maryland Humanities Council.

CityLit Project was founded in 2004 to serve readers and writers through the literary arts. Its annual festival, outreach to youth, and publishing imprint have been recognized as significant contributions to Baltimore’s cultural scene. Learn more at www.CityLitProject.org.