



**CITYLIT**  
PROJECT

# Master Class

with MacArthur “Genius” Fellow Dinaw Mengestu:

Writing Our Story: Diverse Narratives Across America



This 90 minute workshop will look at the way novelists, poets, essayists, and journalists tell stories that go against the common grain. Participants will explore how landscape, in particular cities, shape a community, and will examine the role writers can play in expanding how communities are defined.

For emerging and established writers interested in craft instruction.

**Includes a Q & A session  
and a handout of resources**

**DINAW MENGESTU** is an award-winning, Ethiopian-American novelist who has garnered widespread critical acclaim for his intimate depictions of the immigrant experience in America. The author of three novels, *The Beautiful Things That Heaven Bears*, *How to Read the Air*, and *All Our Names*, Mengestu has received numerous awards, including the National Book Foundation’s “5 Under 35” Award, *The New Yorker*’s “20 under 40” award, and the 2008 Lannan Literary Fellowship. In his talks and keynote presentations, Mengestu explores issues of cultural identity and dislocation and challenges audiences to think critically about the reality of the American dream.

Mengestu is a graduate of Georgetown University and of Columbia University’s M.F.A. program in fiction. His journalism and fiction have appeared in several publications, including *Harper’s Magazine*, *Granta*, *Rolling Stone*, *The New Yorker*, and *The Wall Street Journal*. He is a recipient of a 2012 MacArthur Foundation genius grant.

Mengestu joined The Johns Hopkins University - The Writing Seminars as a Writer-in-Residence through the President’s Reading Series: Literature of Social Import in spring 2017. His undergraduate class, *Readings in Fiction: Hybrid Forms*, focused on essays that have the texture and imagination of a short story. He is currently the Director of the Written Arts Program at Bard College.

**April 29, 2017**

**2 - 3:30 pm**

*During the  
14th Annual  
CityLit Festival*

University of Baltimore

William H. Thumel Sr. Business Center  
11 W. Mount Royal Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21201

**\$10**

***Registration  
Required***

*Go to [www.CityLitProject.org](http://www.CityLitProject.org)*

Follow links to make a \$10 donation. In the comment section, please indicate that you are registering for the Master Class.