



## TEXAS INSTITUTE OF LETTERS ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF 2024 LITERARY AWARDS

The Texas Institute of Letters has announced the winners of the twelve Annual TIL Literary Awards. This year, TIL will award more than \$27,000 in prizes to these writers at the TIL Awards Ceremony and Presentation in The Woodlands, Texas on May 4, 2024.

The Texas Institute of Letters is a nonprofit Honor Society founded in 1936 to celebrate Texas literature and recognize distinctive literary achievement. The TIL's elected membership consists of the state's most respected writers— including winners of the Pulitzer Prize, National Book Award, PEN/Faulkner Award, Man Booker Prize, Academy Award, International Latino Book Award, Americas Award, Lambda Literary Award, MacArthur Fellowship, and Guggenheim Fellowship.

From President Diana López: "Each year, the TIL recognizes the best of Texas writing in a variety of genres that includes fiction, poetry, nonfiction, scholarly writing, translation, and short form works. We are happy to also announce two new contests, the Giron / Valdez Bilingual Poetry Award in the amount of \$1,000 to be given biennially starting in 2025 and the Frederick Luis Aldama Award for Best Graphic Narrative in the amount of \$1,500 to be given biennially starting in 2026. Many thanks to our judges for carefully considering the entries. This year's winners demonstrate the wonderful talent and diversity of writers with Texas roots. Celebrating their achievements is a highlight of our banquet weekend, and we are so grateful for the opportunity to recognize and support the best of Texas literature."

The winners of the 2024 TIL Literary Awards are KB Brookins, Skip Hollandsworth, Jennifer Grotz, Selena Gambrell Anderson, Deborah D.E.E.P. Mouton, Cyrus Cassells, JD Pluecker, Dominic Smith, Diana López, Xelena Gonzalez, Whitney Nell Stewart, Drew Buxton, and Laekan Zea Kemp. All awards are for works published in 2023, except for the biennial Soeurette Diehl Fraser Award for Best Translation of a Book, which is for works published in 2022 and 2023. Carmen Tafolla will receive the Texas Institute of Letters' prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award, the highest honor given by the TIL.

During the banquet weekend, the TIL will also induct twelve new members for 2024: fiction and nonfiction writers, Michael Bracken, Leslie Jill Patterson, Rudy Ruiz, and Ruth. J. Simmons; poet, Natalia Treviño; children's and YA authors, Varsha Bajaj, Rebecca Balcárcel, Laekan Zea Kemp, and Matt Mendez; singer/songwriter, Lucinda Williams; journalist, Cecilia Ballí; and historian, Mary Margaret McAllen. Newly inducted members will read from their work during the weekend in The Woodlands on May 3rd.

For more information on the TIL or the May 4th awards ceremony, contact Diana López, [president@texasinstituteofletters.org](mailto:president@texasinstituteofletters.org), or visit the TIL website at [www.texasinstituteofletters.org](http://www.texasinstituteofletters.org).

## THE 2024 TIL AWARD WINNERS

### Jesse H. Jones Award for Best Book of Fiction

Winner: *Return to Valetto* by Dominic Smith; Farrar, Straus, and Giroux.

Finalists: *Huizache Women* by Estella Gonzalez, Arte Público Press.  
*Edith Holler* by Edward Carey, Riverhead Books.



### Sergio Troncoso Award for Best First Book of Fiction

Winner: *So Much Heart: Stories* by Drew Buxton, With an X Books.

Finalists: *The Sorrows of Others* by Ada Zhang, A Public Space Books.  
*Shoot the Moon* by Isa Arsen, G.P. Putnam's Sons.



### Carr P. Collins Award for Best Book of Nonfiction

Winner: *Black Chameleon: Memory, Womanhood, and Myth* by Deborah D.E.E.P. Mouton, Holt Paperbacks.

Finalists *Waco: David Koresh, the Branch Davidians, and a Legacy of Rage* by Jeff Guinn, Simon & Schuster.

*Exhibitions: Essays on Art and Atrocity* by Jehanne Dubrow, University of New Mexico Press.



### **Burdine C. Johnson Award for Best Book of Poetry**

Winner: *Still Falling* by Jennifer Grotz, Graywolf Press.

Finalists: *The Rock That is Not a Rabbit* by Corey Marks, University of Pittsburgh Press.

*The Fears* by Kevin Prufer, Copper Canyon Press.



Photo by Beowulf Sheehan

### **Texas Institute of Letters Award for First Book of Poetry**

Winner: *Freedom House* by KB Brookins, Deep Vellum Publishing.

Finalists: *El Rey of Gold Teeth* by Reyes Ramirez, Hub City Press.

*Portrait of Us Burning* by Sebastián H. Páramo, Curbstone Books 2.



Photo by Beowulf Sheehan

### **Ramirez Family Award for Most Significant Scholarly Book**

Winner: *This is Our Home: Slavery and Struggle on Southern Plantations* by Whitney Nell Stewart, The University of North Carolina Press.

Finalists: *The Year That Broke Politics: Collusion and Chaos in the Presidential Election of 1968* by Luke A. Nichter, Yale University Press.

*Before Lawrence v. Texas: The Making of a Queer Social Movement* by Wesley G. Phelps, University of Texas Press.



### **Jean Flynn Award for Best Young Adult Book**

Winner: *An Appetite for Miracles* by Laekan Zea Kemp; Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.

Finalists: *The Weight of Everything* by Marcia Argueta Mickelson, Carolrhoda Lab.

*Ander & Santi Were Here* by Jonny Garza Villa, Wednesday Books.

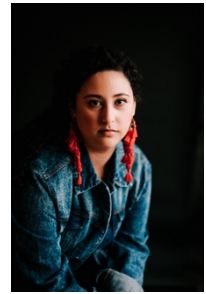


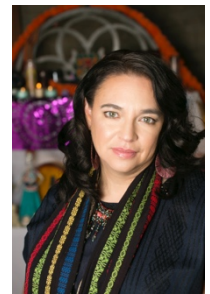
Photo by Diana Ascarrunz

### **Deirdre Siobhan FlynnBass Award for Best Middle Grade Book**

Winner: *Los Monstruos: Felice and the Wailing Woman* by Diana López, Kokila.

Finalists: *Warrior Girl* by Carmen Tafolla, Nancy Paulsen Books.

*The Museum of Lost and Found* by Leila Sales, Harry N. Abrams.



### **Brigid Erin Flynn Award for Best Picture Book**

Winner: *Remembering* by Xelena González, Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers.

Finalists: *Piece by Piece: Ernestine's Gift for President Roosevelt* by Lupe Ruiz-Flores, Millbrook Press.

*Nell Plants a Tree* by Anne Wynter, Balzer + Bray.

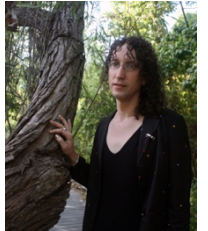


### Soeurette Diehl Fraser Award for Best Translation of a Book

Co-winners: *To the Cypress Again and Again: Tribute to Salvador Espriu* translated by Cyrus Cassells, Stephen F. Austin University Press.

*Trash* translated by JD Pluecker, Deep Vellum Publishing.

Finalist: *Tepozteco's Belly* translated by Nicolás Kanellos, Arte Público Press.



### Kay Cattarulla Award for Best Short Story

Winner: "Jewel of the Gulf of Mexico" by Selena Gambrell Anderson, *McSweeney's*.

Finalists: "song of the burning woman" by ire'ne lara silva, *Alaska Quarterly Review*.

"Southsiders" by Jim Sanderson, *Concho River Review*.



### Edwin "Bud" Shrake Award for Best Short Nonfiction

Winner: "Amor Eterno" by Skip Hollandsworth, *Texas Monthly*.

Finalists: "The Butterfly Effect" by Bridget Grumet, *Austin-American Statesman*.

"Hellhounds on his Trail" by Michael Hall, *Texas Monthly*.

