

College of Staten Island English Dept.  
**Spring 2014 Schwerner Writer's Series**

**March 27, 4:30 pm: Jill McDonough,  
Erica Bernheim, Brian Teare**  
Center for the Arts Conference Center Room



**Jill McDonough's** books of poems include *Habeas Corpus* (Salt, 2008), *Oh, James!* (Seven Kitchens, 2012), and *Where You Live* (Salt, 2012). She is the recipient of fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Fine Arts Work Center, the New York Public Library, the Library of Congress, and Stanford's Stegner program. She teaches poetry at UMass-Boston and directs 24PearlStreet, the online writing program at the Fine Arts Work Center.



**Erica Bernheim** holds degrees from Miami University, The University of Iowa's Writers' Workshop, and The University of Illinois at Chicago. She lives in Lakeland, Florida, and directs the creative writing program at Florida Southern College. Her poetry has appeared, or is forthcoming, in *The Iowa Review*, *Boston Review*, *Court Green*, *Columbia Poetry Review*, *Black Warrior Review*, and *Gulf Coast*, among others. *The Mimic Sea* is her first full-length collection.



**Brian Teare** is the author of four full-length books, *The Room Where I Was Born*, *Sight Map*, *Pleasure*, and *Companion Grasses*. He's also published seven chapbooks: *Pilgrim*, *Transcendental Grammar*, *Crown*,  $\uparrow$ , *Paradise Was Typeset*, *Helplessness*, [ *black sun crown* ], and *SORE EROS*. He is Assistant Professor at Temple University in Philadelphia, where he makes books by hand for his micropress, Albion Books.

**April 3, 4:30 pm:**  
**Greg Tate, Amy King, Ben Grossberg**  
Center for the Arts Conference Center Room



**Greg Tate** is a writer, musician, and producer who lives in Harlem. His books include *Everything But the Burden: What White People are Taking from Black Culture* (Harlem Moon/Random House, 2003), *Midnight Lightning: Jimi Hendrix and The Black Experience* (Acapella/Lawrence Hill, 2003); *Flyboy In The Buttermilk, Essays on American Culture* (Simon and Shuster, 1993). Next year Duke University Press will publish *Flyboy 2: The Greg Tate Reader*.



**Amy King** is author of four volumes of poetry: *Antidotes for an Alibi* (2005); *I'm the Man Who Loves You* (2007); *Slaves to Do These Things* (2009); and *I Want to Make You Safe* (2011). Her chapbooks include *The People Instruments* (2002); *The Citizen's Dilemma* (2003); *The Good Campaign* (2006); and *Kiss Me with the Mouth of Your Country* (2007). King has received a MacArthur Scholarship for Poetry and was the 2007 "Poet of the Year" by the Poetry Foundation.



**Benjamin Grossberg** is the author of the chapbook *The Auctioneer Bangs His Gavel* (2006), winner of the Wick Poetry Chapbook Series, and the full-length poetry collections *Underwater Lengths in a Single Breath* (2007) and *Sweet Core Orchard* (2009), winner of a 2010 Lambda Literary Award. He has been the recipient of a Pushcart Prize as well as an Artist Fellowship from the Ohio Arts Council. He has taught English and creative writing at Antioch University in Ohio and the University of Hartford. He is the assistant editor of the *Antioch Review*.

**April 10, 4:30 pm:**  
**David Mills and Camille Rankine**  
**Center for the Arts Conference Center Room**



**David Mills** is a writer and actor who has worked professionally in the dramatic and literary communities for more than a decade. He has two collections of poetry: *The Dream Detective*, a small-press bestseller, and *The Sudden Country*, a finalist for the Main Street Rag Prize. His work has appeared in *Ploughshares*, *Fence*, *Jubilat*, *Callaloo*, and elsewhere. Mills was commissioned to write a play for Julliard, the narration for Deborah Willis' exhibition, "Reflections in Black: A History of Black Photographers" and for I Giullari Di Piazza's folkdance piece, "Tarantella."



Camille Rankine is author of *Slow Dance with Trip Wire*, selected by Cornelius Eady for the Poetry Society of America's 2010 New York Chapbook Fellowship. The recipient of a 2010 "Discovery"/*Boston Review* Poetry Prize, The recipient of a 2010 "Discovery"/*Boston Review* Poetry Prize, she was featured as an emerging poet in the fall 2010 issue of *American Poet* and the April 2011 issue of *O, The Oprah Magazine*. She is Assistant Director of the MFA Program in Creative Writing at Manhattanville College and Editorial Director of *The Manhattanville Review*.

**April 11, 2:30 pm: Sejal Selah, Stephen Schottenfeld**



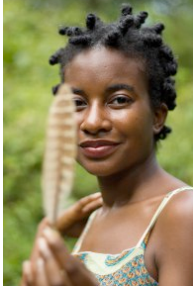
Sejal Shah's short stories and lyric essays appear in journals and books including *The Asian American Literary Review*; *Brevity*; *Denver Quarterly*; *Drunken Boat*; *Hanging Loose*; *Indiana Review*; *The Kenyon Review Online*; *The Literary Review*; *The Massachusetts Review*; *Pleiades*; *Web Conjunctions*; *Under Her Skin: How Girls Experience Race in America* (Seal Press) and others. The daughter of Gujarati immigrants from India and Kenya, Sejal teaches English at the Harley School and creative writing at the University of Rochester.



**Stephen Schottenfeld** has completed a story collection, *Miss Ellen Jameson Is Not Deceased*, and he has a novel, *Bluff City Pawn*, forthcoming from Bloomsbury. His stories have been published in numerous literary magazines and have garnered a Michener/Copernicus Society of America grant, a Halls Fiction Fellowship from the University of Wisconsin at Madison, a tuition scholarship from the Bread Loaf Writers Conference, and special mentions in both the Pushcart Prize and Best American Short Stories anthologies.

**April 24, 4:30 pm: Mariahadessa Ekere Tallie, Rich Villar, and Roger Bonair Agard**

**Center for the Arts Lecture Hall**



**Mariahadessa Ekere Tallie** is a writer, educator, and performer. She is the Poetry Editor of the literary magazine *African Voices*. Her work confronts silence, sexism and racism and has been published in *Crab Orchard Review*, *BOMB*, *Paris/Atlantic*, *Go, Tell Michelle (SUNY)*, *Listen Up!* (One World Ballantine) and *Revenge and Forgiveness (Henry Holt)*. Flipped Eye Publishing released her first collection of poetry, *Karma's Footsteps*, in September of 2011. She is the recipient of a 2010 Queens Council on the Arts grant for her research on herbalists of the African Diaspora.



Poet and spoken-word artist **Roger Bonair-Agard** was born in Trinidad and Tobago. His collections of poetry include *Tarnish and Masquerade* (2006); *Gully* (2010); and *Bury My Clothes* (2013), which was a long-list finalist for a National Book Award. He contributed to the collection *Burning Down the House* (2000), a selection of poems from the Nuyorican Poets Cafe. He is a two-time National Poetry Slam champion and has appeared on programs such as HBO's *Def Poetry Jam* and the PBS *NewsHour*, among others.



**Rich Villar** directs *Acentos*, an organization fostering audiences and community around Latino/a literature. Both *The New York Times* and *The Daily News* have quoted him on Latino literature and culture, and his poetry and essays have appeared or are forthcoming in *Black Renaissance Noire*, *Hanging Loose*, *Beltway Poetry Quarterly*, and *Sou'wester*. His first book of poetry, *Comprehending Forever*, won the 2013 Willow Books Editor's Choice Literature Awards.