



## Fiscal Year 2019 NEA Literature Translation Fellowship Recipients

Number of Grants: 25 Total Dollar Amount: \$325,000

*Some details of the projects listed are subject to change, contingent upon prior NEA approval. See the following pages for more information on the projects and translators. Please note these awards are pending Congressional approval of the NEA's fiscal year 2019 budget.*

- [Kaveh Bassiri](#), Fayetteville, AR (\$12,500)
- [Eric M. B. Becker](#), Jackson Heights, NY (\$12,500)
- [Ian Boyden](#), Friday Harbor, WA (\$12,500)
- [Sean Gasper Bye](#), Brooklyn, NY (\$12,500)
- [Rachel Careau](#), Hudson, NY (\$12,500)
- [Peter Covino](#), Providence, RI (\$12,500)
- [Anna Deeny Morales](#), Chevy Chase, MD (\$12,500)
- [Katrina Dodson](#), Brooklyn, NY (\$12,500)
- [Jennifer Feeley](#), South Lyon, MI (\$25,000)
- [Edward Gauvin](#), Eugene, OR (\$12,500)
- [Elizabeth Harris](#), Alma, WI (\$12,500)
- [Stefania Heim](#), Bellingham, WA (\$12,500)
- [Thomas J. Kitson](#), New York, NY (\$12,500)
- [Karen Kovacik](#), Indianapolis, IN (\$12,500)
- [Christina E. Kramer](#), Toronto, ON (\$12,500)
- [Oksana Maksymchuk](#), Fayetteville, AR, (\$12,500)
- [Lynn E. Palermo](#), Lewisburg, PA (\$12,500)
- [Kerri A. Pierce](#), Honeyoye Falls, NY (\$12,500)
- [Kristina Reardon](#), Worcester, MA (\$12,500)
- [Lola Rogers](#), Seattle, WA (\$12,500)
- [Samah Selim](#), Port Washington, NY (\$12,500)
- [Antony Shugaar](#), La Jolla, CA (\$12,500)
- [Lytton Smith](#), Rochester, NY (\$12,500)
- [Marcela Sulak](#), Louise, TX (\$12,500)
- [Rose Waldman](#), Brooklyn, NY (\$12,500)



**Kaveh Bassiri**, Fayetteville, AR (\$12,500)

To support the translation from the Persian of a collection of poems by Iranian poet Roya Zarrin. The poetry of Roya Zarrin (b. 1972) explores not only her own experiences growing up in a time of war but also the daily difficulties faced by Iranian women. She writes about love, marriage, divorce, and motherhood, as well as about violence, revolution, religion, oppression, and patriarchy. The poems shift among the realms of the mythical, spiritual, personal, and political. They include proclamations, prayers, confessions, chants, pleadings, praise, and protests. The narrator sometimes invokes spiritual texts, such as the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament, with a particular fondness for the Book of Revelation. The translated collection will include poems from two of Zarrin's multi-award-winning volumes: *I Want to Swallow My Children* and *Pleasant Tricks of April*. This translation will be one of the first English-language books from a post-revolution Iranian poet.

Kaveh Bassiri is a recipient of the Witter Bynner Poetry Translation Residency and the Sturgis International Fellowship. His translations have been published in the *Virginia Quarterly Review*, *Guernica*, *Colorado Review*, *Two Line Online*, and the *Massachusetts Review*. His own poetry has won the *Bellingham Review's* 49th Parallel Award and been published in the *Virginia Quarterly Review*, *Beloit Poetry Review*, *Mississippi Review*, and *Best New Poets 2011*.



*Credit: Luisa Leme*

**Eric M. B. Becker**, Jackson Heights, NY (\$12,500)

To support the translation from the Portuguese of a short story collection by Brazilian author Lygia Fagundes Telles. Telles (b. 1923) is a giant of 20th- and 21st-century Brazilian literature, and one of Brazil's most celebrated living writers. She has won more than 25 international and national awards for her 22 books, including the Camoes Award—the most prestigious literary award in the Portuguese language—and yet there is only one novel of hers currently available in English and none of her stories. This project represents a departure from the historical bias toward the translation of Brazil's major male writers. The 400-page collection incorporates not only those stories that the author herself considers her most important works, but also those that critics have identified as indicative of her evolution as a writer.

Eric M. B. Becker is a writer, literary translator, and editor of the online journal *Words Without Borders*. He has received several grants and fellowships from PEN America (PEN/Heim), the Fulbright Commission, and the Louis Armstrong House Museum. He has translated work by more than 20 writers from Brazil and across the Lusophone world, including Mia Couto, Paulo Coelho, Elvira Vigna, Carlos Drummond de Andrade, and Alice Sant'Anna. In 2016, he edited PEN America's *Glossolalia: Women Write Brazil* anthology together with Mirna Queiroz.



**Ian Boyden**, Friday Harbor, WA (\$12,500)

To support the translation from the Chinese of the poetry collection *Minority* by Tibetan poet Tsering Woeser. Woeser (b. 1966) is considered one of China's most respected living Tibetan writers. As a child of the Cultural Revolution, she was educated entirely in the Chinese language and never learned to read or write in her native Tibetan. She writes to both a Han (Chinese) and Tibetan audience. Through this collection of 35 poems, roughly 120 pages, she seeks to give a public expression for the first time to the emotions and experiences of a people and a culture previously hidden from the mainstream. Her poems confront sensitive topics, such as the wave of self-immolation that has swept through Tibetan society in the last decade, and the destruction of Larung Gar, the largest Buddhist academy in the world. She was honored with a 2010 Courage in Journalism Award from the International Women's Media Foundation, as well as an International Women of Courage Award by the U.S. State Department.

Ian Boyden is a translator, writer, artist, and curator. His translations of Woeser's work have been published on leading human rights and Tibetan cultural websites, including Radio Free Asia, Invisible Tibet, and High Peaks Pure Earth. His translation of her poem "The Spider of Yabzhi Taktser" was declared the most read translation of a Tibetan poem in 2017. He studied for many years in China and Japan, and holds degrees in the history of art from Wesleyan University and Yale University.



**Sean Gasper Bye, Brooklyn, NY (\$12,500)**

To support the translation from the Polish of Malgorzata Szejnert's *Ellis Island*, a work of creative historical nonfiction. As one of Poland's top literary journalists and co-founder of the country's first independent newspaper after the restoration of democracy, Szejnert (b. 1936) is credited with training a generation of reporters and continues to be one of the country's most influential literary voices. In *Ellis Island*, she presents a nuanced portrait of the iconic immigration station by interweaving perspectives taken from memoirs and correspondence of new arrivals, commissioners, interpreters, doctors, and nurses into a realistic tapestry of the island's history. The account begins with the island's origins in pre-Columbian America and progresses through its second life today as a museum, including the island's ordeal during the September 11, 2001, attacks, when it was first evacuated and then converted into a makeshift hospital.

Sean Gasper Bye is a translator of Polish literature. His translations of *Watercolours* by Lidia Ostałowska (Zubaan Books) and *History of a Disappearance* by Filip Springer (Restless Books) were published in 2017. His translations of fiction, literary journalism, and drama have appeared in *Words Without Borders*, *Catapult*, *Continents*, and elsewhere, and he is a winner of the 2016 *Asymptote* Close Approximations Prize. He studied modern languages at University College London and international studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies. Since 2014, he has been literature and humanities curator at the Polish Cultural Institute New York.



Credit: Steven Gareau

**Rachel Careau**, Hudson, NY (\$12,500)

To support the translation from the French of a collection of poetic prose by Swiss writer Roger Lewinter. Lewinter is a prominent writer, translator, editor, and director born in France in 1941 to Austrian Jewish parents. The family escaped to Switzerland during World War II. This collection will include four of his shorter texts, three of them never before translated. “The Center of the Shawl” presents a series of philosophical-poetic meditations on topics ranging from art, beauty, and seduction to Sophocles’ *Antigone* and Georg Groddeck’s *Der Seelensucher* (*The Soul Seeker*). “The Void at the Center” relates Lewinter’s life story through a series of aphorisms on human nature and what makes for a meaningful life. In “who—in the order—in evening’s red glow— of the words—,” Lewinter “disarticulates” a single, unending sentence through multiple interpolated clauses set off by asymmetrically spaced dashes, inventing a nonlinear form of reading. Finally, “An Approach” follows that work’s evolution through four early versions.

Rachel Careau is a writer and literary translator and is the author of one book of prose poems, *Itineraries*. Her previous translations of Roger Lewinter’s work include the books *Story of Love in Solitude* and *The Attraction of Things*, both published by New Directions in 2016. Her recent stories have appeared in *Lemon Hound* and *Plume*, and her translations have been featured in *BOMB*, *Harper’s*, *Literary Hub*, and *Two Lines*. She holds an MFA from Bard College.



Credit: Francesco Gentile

**Peter Covino**, Providence, RI (\$12,500)

To support the translation from the Italian of selected poems by Dario Bellezza. Lauded by many luminaries of 20th-century Italian literature for his poems, novels, essays, and plays, Bellezza (1944-96) was known for exploring themes of rebirth, emotional unions, sexual transformation, and death alongside sociopolitical issues of gay rights. Some of his most complex poems of the later 1980s and '90s integrated metaphors of illness when Bellezza first became aware that he was HIV-positive. Winner of the Montale Prize, and the Viareggio Prize—Italy's most prestigious poetry recognition—he often championed the rights of the disenfranchised in a fearless, satirical, and impassioned style. Tentatively titled *What Sex is Death? Dario Bellezza: Selected Poems*, this collection will span all eight poetry books from the author's 25-year publishing career, 1971 to 1996.

Peter Covino is a poet, translator, editor, and associate professor of English and creative writing at the University of Rhode Island. He is the author of the poetry collections *The Right Place to Jump*, featured on *NPR* and the *Huffington Post*, and *Cut Off the Ears of Winter*. His prizes include a 2007 PEN/Joyce Osterweil Award for Poetry and a Frank O'Hara Poetry Prize for his chapbook, *Straight Boyfriend*. His poems have appeared in such journals as the *American Poetry Review*, *Colorado Review*, *Gulf Coast*, and the *Yale Review*.



Credit: Tamzin B. Smith

**Anna Deeny Morales**, Chevy Chase, MD (\$12,500)

To support the translation from the Spanish of the poetry book *Tala* by Chilean poet Gabriela Mistral. Mistral (1889-1957) was a poet, educator, and humanist. In 1945, she became the first Latin American writer and the fifth woman to receive the Nobel Prize in Literature. Through her extraordinary poetry and hundreds of essays on topics such as women, children, pedagogy, poverty, literature, culture, and politics, Mistral became a world-renowned expert in the fields of education and human rights as well as a celebrated writer. However, only one volume of Mistral's poetry has been translated in its entirety into the English language. Published in 1938, *Tala* [*Fells*] is dedicated to the thousands of children displaced by the Spanish Civil War. Considered by many to be Mistral's most significant literary achievement, *Tala* is the last major work she published before receiving the Nobel Prize.

Anna Deeny Morales has edited and translated collections of poetry by Chilean poet Raúl Zurita, including *Purgatory*, *Dreams for Kurosawa*, and *Sky Below: Selected Works*. She has also translated works by Mercedes Roffé, Amanda Berenguer, and Alejandra Pizarnik. Her translations of poetry by Gabriela Mistral, Nicanor Parra, Malú Urriola, Idea Vilariño, and Marosa di Giorgio, among others, appear in anthologies and journals such as the *Paris Review*, *BOMB*, and *Harvard Review*. Deeny Morales's plays and adaptations of opera have been performed in Italy, Spain, and the United States. She teaches at the Center for Latin American Studies at Georgetown University.





Credit: Cressandra Thibodeaux

**Katrina Dodson, Brooklyn, NY (\$12,500)**

To support the re-translation from the Brazilian Portuguese of the novel *Macunaíma, the Hero With No Character* by Mário de Andrade. Trained as a classical pianist, and author of more than 40 books, Andrade (1893-1945) was a modernist poet, novelist, musicologist, folklorist, critic, and cultural historian of mixed African and European heritage. Andrade's work reflects a passion for the diversity of the Brazilian people, as it explores stereotypes and contradictions of race and sexuality in Brazilian culture, as well as in foreign ideas about Brazil. One of the most important Brazilian novels of the 20th century, though currently out of print in English, *Macunaíma* interweaves spoken and regional forms of Brazilian Portuguese with Tupi (the major indigenous language in Brazil), other South American indigenous languages, and words derived from various African languages. The 1928 novel tells the story of a trickster hero who originates in myths from the Amazon region where Brazil, Venezuela, and Guyana meet and transforms him into a now-iconic hybrid Brazilian character.

Katrina Dodson is the translator from the Portuguese of *The Complete Stories* by Clarice Lispector, winner of the 2016 PEN Translation Prize, the American Translators Association Lewis Galantière Award, and a Northern California Book Award. Her writing has appeared in *The Believer*, *Guernica*, *McSweeney's*, and *The Millions*. Dodson has translated short works by various contemporary Brazilian authors and edited a new translation of Ana Cristina Cesar's poetry collection *At Your Feet* by Brenda Hillman with Helen Hillman and Sebastião Edson Macedo.



Credit: Shi Lessner

**Jennifer Feeley**, South Lyon, MI (\$25,000)

To support the translation from the Chinese of the semi-autobiographical novel *Mourning a Breast* by Hong Kong writer Xi Xi. An award-winning author of more than 30 books of fiction, poetry, and nonfiction, Xi Xi (b. 1937)—a pseudonym of Hong Kong author Cheung Yin—is one of the most acclaimed writers throughout the Chinese-speaking world. *Mourning a Breast* is her most personal work and is inspired by her diagnosis of breast cancer in 1989. The book encompasses a range of genres including fiction, nonfiction, poetry, dialogues, dictionary entries, lists, calculations, and images, and touches on such subjects as chemotherapy, healthcare education in Hong Kong, and female friendships. Cancer, especially breast cancer, is a taboo subject in Chinese culture; her book is one of the first Chinese-language literary efforts to cast off the stigma of writing about illness.

Jennifer Feeley's translations have appeared in numerous journals and anthologies, including *FIELD*, *Epiphany*, *Cha*, *Chinese Literature Today*, PEN America's *Glossolalia*, and *Chinese Writers on Writing*. She is the translator of *Not Written Words: Selected Poetry of Xi Xi*, for which she won the 2017 Lucien Stryk Asian Translation Prize and a 2017 Hong Kong Publishing Biennial Award in Literature and Fiction. It was also longlisted for the 2017 National Translation Award in Poetry, and *World Literature Today* named it one of the 75 notable translated books of 2016. Currently, she is translating a collection of short stories by Shi Tiesheng for Polymorph Editions, along with the first two books in the *White Fox Dilah* series by Chen Jiatong for Chicken House Books.



Credit: Quitterie de Fomervault-Bernard

**Edward Gauvin**, Eugene, OR (\$12,500)

To support the translation from French of *Fresh Fables for an Empty Stomach*, a collection of flash fiction by Pierre Bettencourt. Pierre Bettencourt (1917-2006) was a critically acclaimed painter, poet, printer, prankster, and true eccentric of French art and letters who shunned with mischievous modesty any limelight and the larger literary world. He first self-published his own work on a family-owned manual press during the Nazi occupation of France, and continued to do so under a variety of names: Right Hand Editions, the Library of the Railroads, and the National Institute of Irrational Research. His prodigious output of essays, pastiches (works attributed to other or nonexistent authors), poems, travel writing, aphorisms, and what might be called prose poems or flash fiction stand outside of trends and tradition. Spanning two decades of his prose output, these flash fiction fables will introduce English-speaking readers to the full range of Bettencourt's characteristically caustic humor, abrupt absurdities, and extreme whimsy.

Edward Gauvin has received prizes, fellowships, and residencies from PEN America, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Fulbright Program, Ledig House, the Lannan Foundation, and the French Embassy. His work has won numerous awards, including the John Dryden Translation Competition and the Science Fiction & Fantasy Translation Award. The translator of more than 250 graphic novels, he is a contributing editor for comics at *Words Without Borders* and has written on Francophone fantasy fiction at *Weird Fiction Review*. His publications have appeared in the *New York Times*, *Harper's*, *Tin House*, and *Subtropics*.



**Elizabeth Harris**, Alma, WI (\$12,500)

To support the translation from the Italian of *Stories With Pictures* by Antonio Tabucchi. Born in Pisa, Italy, Tabucchi (1943-2012) published more than 30 books that have been translated into 40 languages. His award-winning work often engaged politics and history and was critical of contemporary Italy, in particular attempts to rehabilitate Fascism during the 1990s. This hybrid book, one of his last, includes 42 pieces of inventive, sometimes nonlinear fiction, nonfiction, and poems written during a 30-year span, each accompanied by an image, such as a painting, photograph, or drawing. Many of the pieces were written for art exhibits and catalogs; others are previously unpublished.

Elizabeth Harris's translations appear in such literary journals as *AGNI Magazine*, the *Kenyon Review*, the *Literary Review*, the *Missouri Review*, *New England Review*, and *Words Without Borders*. Her translated books include Mario Rigoni Stern's novel *Giacomo's Seasons*; Giulio Mozzi's story collection *This Is the Garden*, and Antonio Tabucchi's novels *For Isabel: a Mandala* and *Tristano Dies*, for which she received a PEN/Heim Translation Fund Grant and the National Translation Award.



Credit: Peter Pihos

**Stefania Heim**, Bellingham, WA (\$12,500)

To support the translation from the Italian of the novel *Mr. Dudron* by Giorgio de Chirico. Best known as the forefather of Surrealism, de Chirico (1888-1978) is acclaimed as a 20th-century Italian metaphysical painter. His literary output includes treatises and essays on art and philosophy, memoirs and autobiographical fragments, and poems in both French and Italian. Largely unknown in the English-speaking world, *Mr. Dudron* took four decades to complete and was only published in 1998, 20 years after de Chirico's death. Explicitly autobiographical, *Mr. Dudron* incorporates long essays on the profound potential of art and de Chirico's practices and theories as an artist, as well as scathing critiques of modernity and his contemporaries.

Stefania Heim is author of the poetry collections *A Table That Goes On for Miles* (Switchback Books, 2014) and *Hour Book*, selected by Jennifer Moxley as winner of the Sawtooth Prize and forthcoming in early 2019 with Ahsahta Press. *Geometry of Shadows*, her volume of translations of Giorgio de Chirico's Italian poems, will be published by APS Books. Stefania is a founding editor of *CIRCUMFERENCE: Poetry in Translation* and a former poetry editor of *Boston Review*.



Credit: Valentina B. Izmirlieva

**Thomas J. Kitson**, New York, NY (\$12,500)

To support the translation from the Russian of the novel *Philosophia* by Georgian writer Ilia Mikhailovich Zdanevich (aka Iliazd). Iliazd (1894-1975) was a writer and artist best known among Russians as a Futurist poet and theoretician. In Western Europe and the United States, he is recognized by many as a key figure in 20th-century book arts. For decades, he collaborated on high-end artists' books with Pablo Picasso, Marc Chagall, Henri Matisse, Fernand Léger, Alberto Giacometti, Joan Miró, and Max Ernst. His work has been featured in exhibitions around the world. Set in the aftermath of World War I in cosmopolitan Istanbul under Allied occupation, *Philosophia* presents a world of refugees, former prisoners of war, and religious minorities facing the pressures of radicalized nationalism and atheistic revolution. The hero of the novel, attempting to balance the claims of philosophy, poetry, and practical politics, finds himself caught in the middle of a plot that could blow Hagia Sophia "sky high."

Thomas J. Kitson is a freelance translator. Columbia University Press published his translation of Iliazd's *Rapture: A Novel* in May 2017. It received positive reviews from both general interest and academic publications, including *Rain Taxi Review*, *Open Letters Monthly*, the *Russian Review*, and *Slavic and East European Journal*. Kitson's translation was awarded a Special Mention citation from the Read Russia Prize jury in April 2018. He holds a PhD in Russian literature from Columbia University.



*Credit: Indiana University Foundation*

**Karen Kovacik**, Indianapolis, IN (\$12,500)

To support the translation from the Polish of a collection of poems by Jacek Dehnel. One of Poland's most highly regarded and prolific young writers, Dehnel (b. 1980) has published nine collections of poetry and 17 works of prose. He is also an acclaimed translator of Anglophone literature, including F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*, Henry James's *The Turn of the Screw*, and Philip Larkin's *Collected Poems*, among others. Dehnel's poems are simultaneously traditional in form and contemporary in subject matter, employing the classic 13-syllable line and intricate rhyming stanzas to explore scientific developments, the proliferation of Internet culture, and gay love. Tentatively titled *Parallel Lives: Poetic Suites*, the translated work will draw from two of Dehnel's books: *Columns of Gains and Losses* and *Foreign Languages*.

Karen Kovacik's translations include Agnieszka Kuciak's *Distant Lands: An Anthology of Poets Who Don't Exist*, longlisted for the 2014 National Translation Award; *Scattering the Dark: An Anthology of Polish Women Poets*; and Jacek Dehnel's book of poems *Aperture*. Her work has been honored with the Charity Randall Citation from the International Poetry Forum, a Fulbright Research Grant to Poland, and a Literature Translation Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts. She is professor of English at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis.



Credit: Diana Tyszko

**Christina E. Kramer**, Toronto, ON (\$12,500)

To support the translation from the Macedonian of the biographical novel *Grandma No-Yes* by Lidija Dimkovska. A native of Macedonia, Dimkovska (b. 1971) is a poet, novelist, essayist, and translator. She has published six books of poetry and three novels and received the Macedonian award for poetry debut, the German poetry prize, the Romanian poetry prizes Poesis and Tudor Arghezi, and the European Prize for Poetry Petru Krdu. *Grandma No-Yes*, her latest novel, is written in the form of a diary exchange between a grandmother and granddaughter. It tells the story of a woman from Croatia who falls in love with an Italian soldier at the end of World War II and moves to Sicily. The novel touches upon the events of WWII and the eventual collapse of Yugoslavia, recent political trends in Croatia, as well as the past impact of the Mafia in Sicily, the rise of Fascism in Europe, and, through intimate conversation across generations, the ways in which individual lives are affected by war, relocation, cultural displacement, and aging.

Christina E. Kramer is a professor in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literature at the University of Toronto, Canada. Her translations of novels include (from the Macedonian) *Freud's Sister* by Goce Smilevski (MLA-Roth Award, Honorable Mention, 2014), *A Spare Life* by Lidija Dimkovska (long list, best translated book award, 2017) and *My Father's Books, The Time of the Goats, and The Path of the Eels* (for which she received an NEA Literature Translation Fellowship in 2014) by Luan Starova. She was also a member of the group of translators of the 19th-century classic (from the Bulgarian) *Bai Ganyo* by Aleko Konstantinov. In addition, she has published translations of poetry by Vladimir Martinovski that appeared in *International Poetry Review* and the short story "The City" by Branislav Gjorgjevski in *M—Dash*.





Credit: Natalya Mykhailychenko

**Oksana Maksymchuk**, (in collaboration with Max Rosochinsky), Fayetteville, AR (\$12,500)

To support the translation from the Ukrainian of an anthology of selected poems by Marianna Kiyanovska. Kiyanovska (b. 1973) is one of the best-known writers and influential women in Ukraine's cultural sphere. Like most Ukrainian language poets, hardly any of her poems have been translated into English. This proposed anthology will draw on the poems Kiyanovska wrote between 2013 and 2017, a turbulent time of conflict in Ukraine. Kiyanovska became actively involved with humanitarian efforts then, regularly visiting hospitals and shelters in occupied regions and overseeing the distribution of necessities as well as books; she also hosted a refugee in her own home. Her poems from this period reflect these complex emotional experiences.

Oksana Maksymchuk is a poet and translator. Her translations from Ukrainian and Russian have appeared in such publications as the *Best European Fiction* series, *London Magazine*, *Words Without Borders*, *Modern Poetry in Translation*, and *Poetry International*, and she is co-editor of the anthology *Words for War: New Poems from Ukraine* (Boston: Academic Studies Press, 2017). She teaches philosophy at the University of Arkansas.



Credit: Geoff Carens

**Lynn E. Palermo, Lewisburg, PA (\$12,500)**

To support the translation from the French of the historical novel *Humus* by Fabienne Kanor. Born in France of Martinican descent, Kanor (b.1970) is a novelist and documentary filmmaker whose first career was in radio journalism. *Humus* was inspired by an incident recounted briefly in an 18th-century French slave ship captain's report, in which 14 captive women escaped from the hold and leaped overboard together rather than be sold into slavery. The novel is polyphonic, with voices that interweave and blend without creating a single, overarching narrative. It explores the brutalizing effects of slavery, not only on the victim but also on the dominator; and slavery's heritage, centuries later. *Humus*, which received the RFO Literary Award, is Kanor's second novel of six and the first to be translated into English. Kanor has also received the Fetkann Award and the Grand Prix Carbet, and has been awarded Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres by the French Minister of Culture.

Lynn E. Palermo is associate professor of French at Susquehanna University. Her translations have appeared in journals such as the *Kenyon Review Online*, *Exchanges Literary Journal*, and *World Literature Today*. In 2016, Palermo received a French Voices Award for her co-translation of Cyrille Fleischman's *Destiny's Repairman*. She has also published research on the politics of culture in interwar France. She is a volunteer translator for the United Nations and affiliated organizations.



*Credit: Margaret Snead*

**Kerri A. Pierce**, Honeyoye Falls, NY (\$12,500)

To support the translation from the Danish of the novel *Karensminde* by Iben Mondrup. Mondrup (b. 1969) grew up in Qeqertarsuaq, a town of dogsledding, snow, darkness, and 1,000 inhabitants on Greenland's west coast. Her parents were Danish instructors in a small hunting and fishing community, and at 18, she moved to Denmark to study at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts. She is the author of four novels and recipient of numerous literary awards, including the DR Novel Prize and the prestigious Blixen Literary Award. *Karensminde* recounts the events surrounding a family tragedy from the perspective of the different family members involved.

Kerri Pierce is a writer and translator of fiction and nonfiction from eight languages. Her short translations have appeared in the *New Yorker* and *World Literature Today*, among other publications, and her novel translations have been finalists for the PEN Translation Prize and the International Dublin Literary Award. She holds a PhD in comparative literature from Pennsylvania State University.



**Kristina Reardon**, Worcester, MA (\$12,500)

To support the translation from the Slovenian of *Blackberry Heaven: A Novel in Stories* by Nataša Kramberger. Born in Slovenia in 1983, Kramberger is among the first generation of fiction and nonfiction writers to have come of age among the newly formed nation of Slovenia, which gained independence from the former Yugoslavia in 1991; she is also among the last generation of writers who have memories of the former Yugoslavia. In 2008, *Blackberry Heaven: A Novel in Stories* was nominated for the prestigious Kresnik Prize. The novel centers on the intertwining narratives of a young Slovenian student and an Italian grandfather. While their life experiences differ significantly, they are united by a common place and time—Amsterdam in the present day—where their paths intersect. Kramberger is the first Slovenian writer to receive the European Union Prize for Literature.

Kristina Reardon has published dozens of translations, short stories, and essays. Her translations of Slovenian and Spanish stories and poems include works by Jimena Néspolo, Nina Kokelj, Suzana Tratnik, Silvija Borovnik, and survivors of the Dachau concentration camp in World War II. She is the recipient of several grants and awards for scholarship, translation, and writing.



**Lola Rogers**, Seattle, WA (\$12,500)

To support the translation from the Finnish of the novel *The Death of Orvar Klein* by Daniel Katz. Katz (b. 1938) is one of Finland's most beloved comic novelists. He is the author of 13 novels and short story collections and numerous stage, screen, and radio plays. He has twice won the Finnish State Prize for Literature and in 2015 was awarded the Pro-Finlandia Medal for his contributions to Finnish letters. His works have been translated into more than a dozen languages but none of his novels have been translated into English. Katz is a member of the tiny Jewish minority that has lived in Finland for more than 200 years. He writes from an outsider's perspective on the European North from the days of the Swedish and Russian Empires to the European Union. *The Death of Orvar Klein*, his third novel, tells the story of a bookish young man growing up in Finland at the turn of the 20th century.

Lola Rogers has translated 12 novels to date and contributed translations of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry to a variety of journals and anthologies. Her translations include Sofi Oksanen's internationally acclaimed novel *Purge*, Johanna Sinisalo's *The Core of the Sun*, and Pasi Ilmari Jääskeläinen's *Secret Passages in a Hillside Town*. She is a founding member of the Finnish-English Literary Translation Cooperative and is presently completing a translation of Rosa Liksom's most recent novel, *The Colonel's Wife*.



Photo Credit: Samah Selim

**Samah Selim**, Port Washington, NY (\$12,500)

To support the translation from the Arabic of the novel *Sultana* by Jordanian writer Ghalib Halasa. Halasa (1932-89) is the author of eight novels, two short story collections, ten volumes of criticism, and several Arabic translations of American and French literature. Born in a Christian village in Amman, Jordan, Halasa lived and served prison sentences in a succession of Arab countries from which he was eventually exiled. His writing reflects the story of Arab modernity, spanning four countries in the throes of dramatic transformation. *Sultana* is Halasa's last and most autobiographical novel. It was named one of the 50 most important Arab novels of the 20th century by the Arab Writers' Union in 2001 and was made into a Jordanian television drama in 2007.

Samah Selim is the translator of *Memories of a Meltdown: An Egyptian between Moscow and Chernobyl* by Mohamed Makhzangi, *Neighborhood and Boulevard: Reading Through the Modern Arab City* by Khaled Ziadeh, and *Brooklyn Heights* by Miral al-Tahawy. She won the 2009 Saif Gobash Banipal Prize for Arabic Literary Translation for her translation of *The Collar and the Bracelet*. She is the author of *The Novel and the Rural Imaginary in Egypt, 1880-1985*.



Photo Credit: Chad Van Herpe

**Antony Shugaar**, La Jolla, CA (\$12,500)

To support the translation from the Italian of the novel *Wanna Be Like Everyone* by Francesco Piccolo. Piccolo (b. 1964) is an Italian author, journalist, screenwriter, and artistic director. He has written award-winning works for cinema, theater, radio, and television. He was the lead writer on the HBO multi-season dramatic series based on Elena Ferrante's novel, *My Brilliant Friend*. Winner of Italy's prestigious Strega Prize, *Wanna Be Like Everyone* is an extended philosophical riff on Italian culture and politics intertwined with a personal timeline of the author's life. Piccolo presents a thoughtful treatment of the past 40 years of his country's history, touching on such topics as the 1973 cholera outbreak in Naples, the Red Brigades' 1978 kidnapping and murder of Italian statesman Aldo Moro, the 1980 earthquake near Naples that left nearly a quarter of a million homeless, and the death in 1984 of Enrico Berlinguer, leader of the Italian Communist Party in the 1970s and early '80s.

Antony Shugaar is a freelance journalist and translator who has translated close to 40 books for Europa Editions and many articles for the *New York Review of Books*, as well as the *Washington Post*, the *New York Times* (online), and other publications. He received a National Endowment for the Arts Literature Translation Fellowship for his translation of *Sandokan* by Nanni Balestrini, published by Melville House, and was a finalist for the PEN Translation Award for his translation of Viola Di Grado's *Hollow Heart*.



Credit: Chuck Clifton

**Lytton Smith, Rochester, NY (\$12,500)**

To support the translation from the Icelandic of the novel *Blot* by Sigrun Pálsdóttir. Although Pálsdóttir (b. 1967) has won or been short-listed for all of Iceland's major literary prizes, including the prestigious Icelandic Bookseller's Literary Prize and the Icelandic Women's Literature Prize, her books have not yet been translated into English. The topics she explores in her fiction—issues of reality, misjudgment, and social expectations guiding individual actions—are timely in a climate of social media and virtual realities. In *Blot*, a 17th-century manuscript becomes the catalyst for the collapse of an historian protagonist's physical and mental world into the realm of delusion. The novel dramatizes the hold parents' lives have on those of their adult children, the pressure to be original in one's research, and the demands made on women scholars.

Lytton Smith is an award-winning poet and one of the leading translators of Icelandic in the United States. His translations of book-length works from Icelandic include Bragi Ólafsson's *The Ambassador*, published by Open Letter, and *Tómas Jónsson: Bestseller*, a 400-page modernist classic published in 1966 and dubbed "the Icelandic Ulysses." A recipient of numerous grants and awards, he teaches at the State University of New York at Geneseo.





Credit: Daniel Fainberg

**Marcela Sulak**, Louise, TX (\$12,500)

To support the translation from the Hebrew of *Music of the Wide Lane and Other Poems* by Sharron Hass. Hass (b. 1965) has authored six poetry volumes which have received numerous awards; her works are critical inquiries into light as the root of symbolic and ethical thought, exploring the limits and renewal of language when confronting death and birth. She interprets contemporary events through the lens of ancient Greek myths and law and their emphasis on immortality, death, and creation, as well as through the lens of Jewish law and Biblical stories and their emphasis on mercy, justice, and survival as a nation. This collection will include poems from several of her books: *He Who Has No Name*, *Poems of Refuge*, *Music of the Wide Lane*, and *Daylight*; only one of these has previously been translated into English.

Marcela Sulak is the author of four poetry collections, including *Decency*, *Immigrant*, and the forthcoming *City of Skypapers*. Her lyrical memoir about translating Czech fairy tales, *Mouth Full of Seeds*, is also forthcoming. Her poetry translations include K.H. Mácha's *May*, K.J. Erben's *Bouquet*, Mutombo Nkulu-N'Sengha's *Bela-Wenda: Voices from the Heart of Africa*, and *Twenty Girls To Envy Me: The Selected Poems of Orit Gidali*, which was nominated for the PEN Award for Poetry in Translation. She is poetry coordinator for the Shaindy Rudoff Graduate Program in Creative Writing at Bar-Ilan University in Israel, where she is an associate professor in the Department of English Literature and Linguistics.



**Rose Waldman**, Brooklyn, NY (\$12,500)

To support the translation from the Yiddish of the autobiographical novel *Rings on the Soul* by Eli Shechtman. A native of Ukraine, Shechtman (1908-96) was a recipient of the Itsik Manger prize; the Chaim Zhitlowsky prize; the Fernando Jenó Award for literature in Spanish, Hebrew, and Yiddish; and the Congress of Jewish Culture Award. His detailed portrayals of the Soviet Jewish *shtetl* (small towns) illuminate a lifestyle that was systemically wiped out. He was arrested by Stalin's henchmen in 1948, but did not share the fate of 13 writers who were executed on August 12, 1952, in what has become known as the "night of the murdered poets." He immigrated to Israel in 1972. Written when he was 73 years old, this penultimate novel is a rendering of the life he lived, fraught with sadness, fear, and tremendous loss. It is also a historical novel, encapsulating a half-century of Jewish life under Soviet rule.

Rose Waldman holds an MFA in fiction and literary translation from Columbia University. Her translation of S. An-sky's novel *Pioneers: The First Breach* was published by Syracuse University Press. She was awarded a translation fellowship from the Yiddish Book Center in 2014 and 2016. Her work has appeared in *Ploughshares*, *Women in Clothes* (Penguin), *Selected Shorts*, *Ami Magazine*, *Pakn Treger*, and *Have I Got a Story for You* (W. W. Norton).