

Alien Form:

Genre and the Production of Ethnic American Literatures
Featured Speakers

Monday, March 31, 2014 | Foster Auditorium



Karen Tei Yamashita is the author of *Through the Arc of the Rain Forest* (1990), *Brazil-Marú* (1992), *Tropic of Orange* (1997), *Circle K Cycles* (2001), and *I Hotel* (2010), all published by Coffee House Press. *I Hotel* was selected as a finalist for the 2010 National Book Award and was also awarded the California Book Award, the American Book Award, the Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association Award, and the Association for Asian American Studies Book Award. Yamashita recently received a U.S. Artists Ford Foundation Fellowship. She is Professor of Literature and Creative Writing at the University of California, Santa Cruz, and is currently a co-holder of the UC Presidential Chair for Feminist Critical Race and Ethnic Studies.

Stephen Graham Jones is the author of numerous books, most recently *Flushboy* (2013) and *Zombie Sharks With Metal Teeth* (2013). He has also published over a hundred and seventy short stories everywhere from literary journals to truck-enthusiast magazines, from textbooks to best-of-the-year anthologies and annuals. Jones has been an NEA Fellow, a Texas Writers League Fellow, and has won the Texas Institute of Letters Award for Fiction and the Independent Publisher Multicultural Award. His areas of interest, aside from fiction writing, are horror, science fiction, fantasy, film, comics, pop culture, technology, and American Indian Studies. Jones is a professor of English at the University of Colorado-Boulder.



Sheree Renée Thomas is a Memphis-based award-winning writer, editor, poet, and educator. She is the founder of Wanganegresse Press and co-publisher of the literary journal, *Anansi: Fiction of the African Diaspora*. Thomas has also edited two World Fantasy Award-winning anthologies. The first, *Dark Matter: a Century of Speculative Fiction from the African Diaspora* (2000), was named a *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year and includes authors such as Octavia E. Butler, Samuel R. Delany, and Tananarive Due, as well as unlikely suspects such as W. E. B. DuBois, George S. Schuyler, and Amiri Baraka. A Cave Canem Fellow, 1999 Clarion West alum, and a 2003 New York Foundation for the Arts Fellow in Poetry, Thomas has published her work in a wide spectrum of publications, from *Strange Horizons* to *VIBE*. A collection of her stories and poetry, *Shotgun Lullabies*, was published in 2011 by Aqueduct Press.



Ken Liu is a Boston-based writer whose speculative fiction and poetry have appeared in *F&SF*, *Asimov's*, *Analog*, *Strange Horizons*, *Lightspeed*, and *Clarkesworld*, among other outlets. He also translates Chinese fiction into English. He has won a Nebula, two Hugos, a World Fantasy Award, and a Science Fiction & Fantasy Translation Award, and been nominated for the Sturgeon and the Locus Awards. His short story "The Paper Menagerie" swept the Nebula, Hugo, and World Fantasy Awards. Liu's novel, *The Chrysanthemum and the Dandelion*, the first installment in a fantasy series, will be published by Simon & Schuster's new genre fiction imprint in 2015.

Nelly Rosario was born in the Dominican Republic and raised in Brooklyn. She received a B.A. in engineering from MIT and an M.F.A. in fiction writing from Columbia University. Rosario is the recipient of the Sherwood Anderson Award in Fiction and a Howard Foundation Fellowship, and was named a "Writer on the Verge" by the *Village Voice Literary Supplement* in 2001. Her novel *Song of the Water Saints* won the 2002 Pen Open Book Award. Her fiction, nonfiction, and poetry have appeared in various anthologies and publications, including *Review*, the *New York Times*, *Meridians*, and *Callaloo*. Rosario is on faculty at Texas State University's MFA Program and is currently a Visiting Scholar in the Comparative Media Studies/Writing Program at MIT, where she is also associate director for the Blacks @ MIT History Project. She is at work on a novel titled *Three Eyes of Water*.

