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The American Library in Paris

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Introducing Fall 2021 Visiting Fellow Dina Nayeri



The Library is pleased to welcome Dina Nayeri this September for a Visiting Fellowship. During her time at the Library, Nayeri will work on her upcoming book, *Who Gets Believed: Reflections on Stories and Truth*. This work explores the following questions: How does truth shift to accommodate insiders of class, faith, and culture? How does an idea become true or a person credible? What does it mean to believe? Ultimately, Nayeri's project is a deep literary investigation into how lying and belief are embedded into various cultures. The book will use historical, philosophical, as well as literary material and original reporting to show how the

culture of belief is built, coded, and reaffirmed over time.

[Nayeri's *Evenings with an Author*](#) event, sponsored by GRoW @ Annenberg, is on 28 September. This conversation with Matteo Pericoli will be the Library's first in-person program of 2021.

Nayeri is the author of *The Ungrateful Refugee*, winner of the 2020 Geschwister-Scholl-Preis, finalist for the 2021 Elle Grand Prix des Lectrices, the 2019 Kirkus Prize, The *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize, and winner of the 2020 Clara Johnson Award. The recipient of many fellowships, including, most recently, the Columbia Institute for Ideas and Imagination's Fellowship in 2019, Nayeri's stories and essays have been published by the *New York Times*, the *New York Times Magazine*, the *Guardian*, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *New Yorker*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and many others. Her debut novel, *A Teaspoon of Earth and Sea* was translated to fourteen languages. Her second novel, *Refuge*, was a *New York Times* editor's choice. She holds a BA from Princeton, an MBA from Harvard, and an MFA from the Iowa Writers' Workshop, where she was a Truman Capote Fellow and Teaching Writing Fellow.

Each year the American Library in Paris's Visiting Fellowship, made possible through the generous support of The de Groot Foundation, invites two journalists, researchers, writers, or filmmakers to join the intellectual life of the Library and its community. During their time at the Library, Fellows pursue their own creative projects that contribute to cross-cultural discourse. Past Fellows include the writer Eula Biss, as well as journalists Matthieu Aikins, Ta-Nehisi Coates, and Ian Leslie.

Evenings with an Author **Sponsored by GRoW @ Annenberg**

Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah on *Friday Black*

This program is part of the Library's [Lettres d'Amérique](#) series, in partnership with the U.S. Embassy, Festival America, and *Transfuge*.



Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah in conversation with Kierstan Kaushal-Carter

Monday 27 September at 19h30

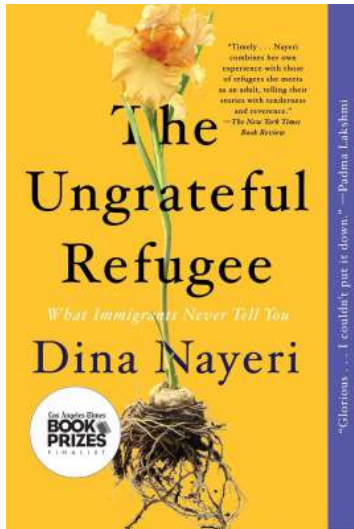
VIRTUAL

Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah's inventive debut collection of short stories, *Friday Black*, reflects a grim portrait of American individualism run wild. Adjei-Brenyah casts his suffering male protagonists into dystopian futures, where they confront consumerism, racial injustice, and financial hardship in twelve unflinching tales. Adjei-Brenyah was born and grew up in New York. He graduated from SUNY Albany and received his MFA from Syracuse University. His work has appeared or will soon appear in numerous publications, including the *New York Times Book Review*, *Esquire*, *Literary Hub*, and the *Paris Review*.

Free and open to the public. [RSVP](#) to receive event login.

On Truth in Art and Literature

Join Visiting Fellow Dina Nayeri and writer and artist Matteo Pericoli for the first in-person event of 2021!



"Inventing Proof with Works and Lines" Dina Nayeri & Matteo Pericoli

Tuesday 28 September at 19h30

IN PERSON

Whether in art or literature, what does it mean to tell the truth, or a version of the truth? And what might it mean to invent the truth in the service of a higher truth? Looking to Matteo Pericoli's *Windows On Elsewhere: 60 Refugees, 60 Views*, a project with a collection of 60 window-view drawings by Pericoli depicting the present window views of 60 persons who were forced to flee their countries, as well as looking to Dina Nayeri's book, *The Ungrateful Refugee*, we will explore the role of invention (or "artful fudging" as Pericoli put it) in creation. Bill Shipsey from Art for Amnesty and Alice McCrum from the American Library in Paris will moderate the conversation. Nayeri's Visiting Fellowship at the Library is generously sponsored by The de Groot Foundation.

Free and open to the public. [RSVP](#) required.

For safety, this in-person event is limited to 30 attendees.

A pass sanitaire is required for all visitors ages 18+.

Visitors ages 6+, staff, and volunteers are required to wear masks on the premises.

Preview: Upcoming Programs

All evening programs begin at 19h30. *Evenings with an Author* and other weeknight programs are free and open to the public thanks to the generous support of GROW @ Annenberg.

The Library has an exciting line-up of programs this fall. Some events will be in-person, and some virtual, so please read the descriptions carefully to know where to meet us for each event.

Below is a teaser for our upcoming programming: Mark your calendars, and stay tuned for our next edition of *e-Libris* in two weeks, when we'll share more information about October events!

September

- Monday 27 September (Virtual): Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah on *Friday Black*
- Tuesday 28 September (In-Person): Dina Nayeri & Matteo Pericoli

October

- Tuesday 5 October (Location TBD): Dina Nayeri & Alice Barbe
- Tuesday 19 October (Virtual): Torrey Peters on *Detransition, Baby*
- Tuesday 26 October (In-Person): Lindsey Tramuta
- Wednesday 27 October (Virtual): Lauren Oyler on *Fake Accounts*

November

- Tuesday 9 November (Virtual): Eula Biss & Nathalie Léger
- Wednesday 17 November (In-Person): Lauren Elkin on *No. 91/92: A Diary of a Year on the Bus*
- Tuesday 23 November (In-Person): Eduardo Berti on *An Ideal Presence*
- Tuesday 30 November (In-Person): Kati Marton on *The Chancellor: The Remarkable Odyssey of Angela Merkel*



GROW@
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Evenings with an Author and other weeknight programs at the Library are free and open to the public (with a 10€ suggested donation) thanks to support from GROW @ Annenberg, our members, and those who attend programs.



Past programs are on YouTube, including *Lettres d'Amérique* with Yaa Gyasi & Eula Biss; Tommy Orange & Robert Warrior; and Laila Lalami & Elizabeth Martin-Shukrun.



Listen to our podcast, *Evenings with an Author*, available wherever you get your podcasts.



Visit our Facebook page for information about upcoming virtual events and *Evenings with an Author* sponsored by GROW @ Annenberg.

Book Recommendations for Kids and Teens



Click the video to watch Children's and Teens' Services Manager Celeste Rhoads share her latest book recommendations for young readers.

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