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The American Library in Paris

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Editor: Carolyn Dubol

Form and Craft: Two-part Writing Workshop Starts 8 June

A piece of finished writing can seem like it's always been in its perfect form, polished from the moment it sprung out of its author's head. But behind the scenes, as every writer knows, the final product is only the tip of a complex iceberg of artistry and revision.

Join 2022–23 Visiting Fellow, poet, and author **Adrienne Raphel**, with guest author **Andrew Altschul**, for a writing workshop dedicated to form and craft.

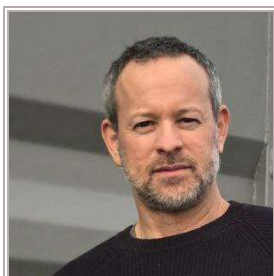
In this two-part workshop, we'll be exploring form and craft, focusing on demystifying the writing process, from first draft through revision and publication. Once you have a draft of something, how do you revise it? How do you keep revising? And how do you know when it's done?

Library members receive a special rate of 40€ per participant. The non-member rate is 60€ per participant. To sign up for this workshop, please visit our [website](#).



Visiting Fellow Adrienne Raphel's new book, *Our Dark Academia*, has been praised as "nervy, deft, and shot through with gloriously manic wit." In the words of poet Natalie Shapero, it has "strong pandemic energy."

Read the *Cleveland Review of Books's* [review](#).

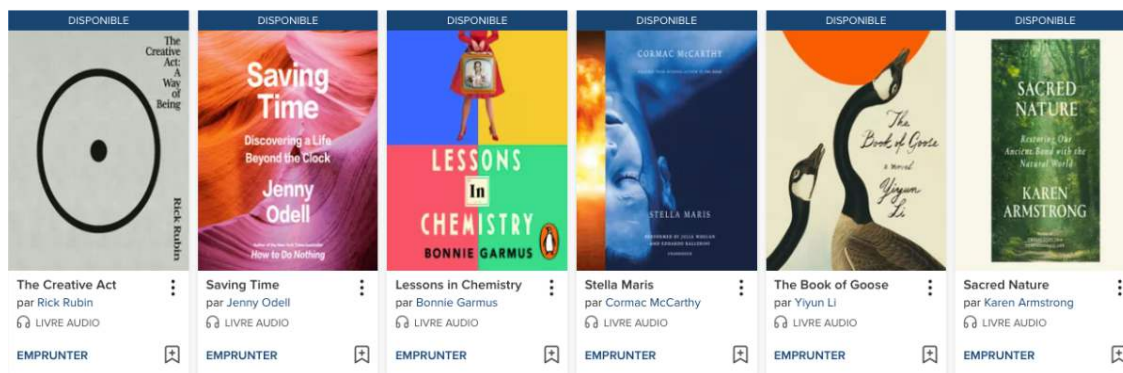


Andrew Altschul recently published his third novel, *La Gringa*. In the *New York Review of Books*, editor Esther Allen identifies its central question: "Does fiction, particularly fiction that claims to be based on history, have any responsibilities at all vis-à-vis real people and their lives?"

Read the full [review](#).

Curated Audiobooks on OverDrive

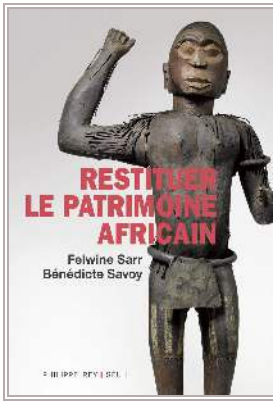
Looking to engage with literature in new ways? Discover new fiction and nonfiction in audio format through the Library's OverDrive platform. Simply [log in](#) to your Library account to access our curated collection of classics, bestsellers, award winners, and recent releases.



Programs for Adults

Evenings with an Author, sponsored by GRoW @ Annenberg

Evenings with an Author and other evening programs are free and open to the public, unless otherwise noted. You must RSVP to attend our programs, whether you join us in person or via Zoom.



TONIGHT

[Africa's Struggle for its Art with Felwine Sarr](#)

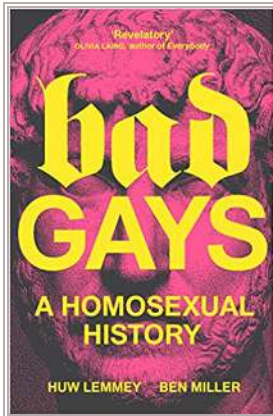
Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom

Tuesday 30 May at 19h30 CEST

In recent years the question of the place of African art in European museums has become increasingly urgent. In France, President Macron's headline-making 2017 declaration that France must recognize its colonial past was followed in 2018 by a landmark report on the restitution of stolen African art, written by art historians Bénédicte Savoy and Felwine Sarr. In conversation with Rachel Donadio, Sarr joins us to discuss this monumental report, and how substantial change, from the contents of permanent collections to the ways we define art, is coming for major cultural institutions.

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

[RSVP to attend in person or on Zoom](#)



[The Bad Gays of History with Ben Miller](#)

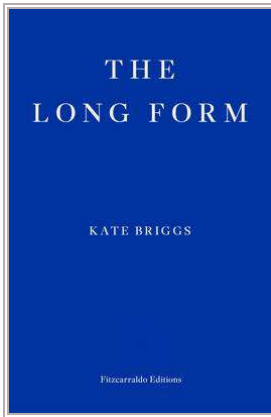
Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom

Tuesday 6 June at 19h30 CEST

Pride month is populated by LGBTQ+ iconography, celebrating the historical figures who demanded the right to live and love freely. Yet what do we lose when we only spotlight the movement's heroes? In *Bad Gays*, authors Ben Miller and Huw Lemmey have the courage to complicate things. Recounting the lives of people who made mistakes, harmed others, acted in contradictory ways, and happened to be queer, the authors reveal hidden, human nuances across queer history. At the Library, Miller will offer a more critical perspective on the current status of LGBTQ+ politics, asking who has been excluded from the political terrain, how previous political failures have been glossed over, and how introducing nuance into our understanding of queer identity can lead to a more just queer future.

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

[RSVP to attend in person or on Zoom](#)



[The Times of Our Lives with Kate Briggs and Yasmine Seale](#)

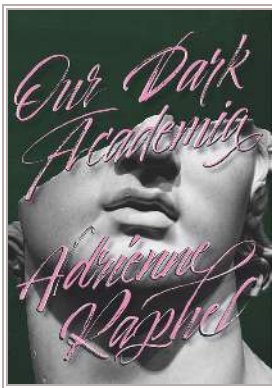
Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom

Wednesday 7 June at 19h30 CEST

In Kate Briggs's *The Long Form*, a day passes. A mother wakes up with her daughter, and proceeds to undertake her quotidian tasks. At the same time, she reflects on the ways the everyday is made. As the rhythms of motherhood prove fertile ground for rumination upon care, love, and creation, the making of the day becomes analogous to the making of a novel, which becomes the material of the novel itself. Briggs seizes upon a lack of action in order to build a space for the slow and spontaneous wanderings of the mind. She joins us to discuss, in conversation with writer Yasmine Seale.

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

[RSVP to attend in person or on Zoom](#)



[An Evening of Poetry](#)

[with Adrienne Raphel and Megan Fernandes](#)

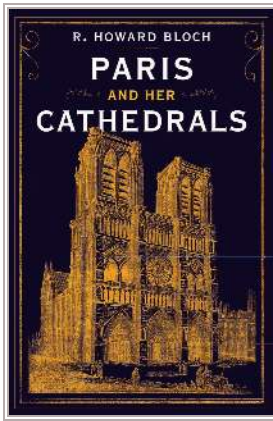
Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom

Tuesday 13 June at 19h30 CEST

Join 2022–23 Visiting Fellow Adrienne Raphel and poet Megan Fernandes for a special evening dedicated to poetry. Celebrated as two of the most exciting poets of their generation, both Raphel and Fernandes experiment across form, language, and sound to generate fragmented, fleeting images of the current moment, diagnosing cultural maladies of contemporary society and playing with poetry as a means of reconciliation.

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

[RSVP to attend in person or on Zoom](#)



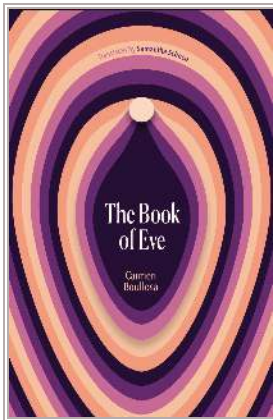
The Cathedrals of France with R. Howard Bloch

Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom
Wednesday 14 June at 19h30 CEST

Saint-Denis, Chartres, Sainte-Chapelle, Reims, Amiens and Notre-Dame: in Paris and her Cathedrals, art historian R. Howard Bloch approaches each of these celebrated sites with renewed curiosity, historical rigor, and aesthetic enthusiasm. From thrilling historical intrigues to luxurious architecture and sacred relics, Bloch reanimates the past of the cathedrals, revealing their centrality to French life and identity across epochs. Join Bloch in conversation with architecture expert Barry Bergdoll as they walk us through the vaulted arches and stone passages of France's most iconic structures, showing glimpses along the way into ways of life lost to time.

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

[RSVP to attend in person or on Zoom](#)



The International Library Part II: Translating Traditions

Hybrid Event: In Person at the Center for Fiction (Brooklyn); Live on Zoom; Streamed Live at the Library
Thursday 15 June at 19h30 CEST

A striking example of translation and its many layers—of language, of myth, of tradition—Samantha Schnee's new English translation of Mexican author Carmen Boullosa's *The Book of Eve* (*El libro de Eva*) twists, challenges, and ultimately revises a classic tale for a contemporary moment. As Eve, fueled by "fiery disobedience," tells her own version of the *Book of Genesis*, she brazenly rejects the stories that have oppressed women across millennia. No, she was not created from Adam's rib; no, she was not expelled from the Garden of Eden for nibbling a forbidden apple; and no, humanity was not deluged by a great flood. In person at the Center for Fiction (Brooklyn, NY) and over Zoom, join Schnee and Boullosa for a conversation about translation twice (and sometimes thrice) over.

Free and open to the public. Registration required to attend in Brooklyn, on Zoom, or to watch the livestream at the Library.

[RSVP to attend in person in Brooklyn or on Zoom](#)

[RSVP to watch the livestream at the Library](#)



Critical Conversations Meeting Eight: Solitude

In Person at the Library

Thursday 15 June at 19h00 CEST

Please note the start time for this event.

Humans always had what we might refer to as the “contemplative gap”: time when the lack of distraction, and the lack of technology, brought us regularly, however reluctantly, in touch with our own inner thinking and feeling selves. Now, with global media and online interaction only a click away, are we eradicating solitude? Has seeking solitude become an act of social dissent? What becomes of the human being when solitude—as opposed to aloneness—is entirely absent? This month, Critical Conversations considers different forms of solitude and ask ourselves how important they are. What might we be missing without them?

Registration required.

RSVP to attend in person



Ann Mah's *Jacqueline in Paris*: Book Launch Event

Hybrid Event: In Person at Reid Hall; Live on Zoom

Saturday 17 June at 19h00 CEST

Please note the location and start time of this event.

In August 1949, Jacqueline Bouvier arrives in postwar Paris to begin her junior year abroad as a Smith College student. Jacqueline is immediately catapulted into an intoxicating new world of champagne and châteaux, art and avant-garde theater, cafés and jazz clubs, and the ghosts of WWII and the Occupation. Ann Mah's new novel imagines the intellectual and aesthetic awakening of Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy Onassis, illuminating how France would prove to be her one true love.

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

This event is hosted by Columbia Global Centers | Paris, Smith College Paris, and the Smith College Club of France with the partnership of the U.S. Embassy Community Liason Office (CLO), the Association of American Women in Europe (AAWE), INSPIRELLE, and the American Library in Paris.

RSVP to attend in person or on Zoom

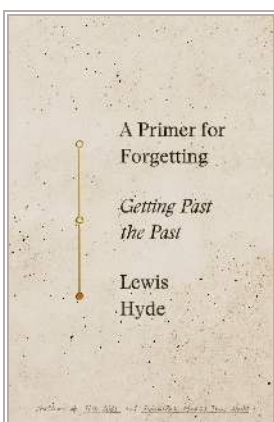


**Annual General Meeting
In Person at the Library
Wednesday 20 June at 19h30 CEST**

All members of the American Library in Paris are invited to the Annual General Meeting of the American Library in Paris, Inc., a membership corporation organized under the laws of Delaware and operating in France. The Library Director, Chairman of the Board, and Board Trustees will report on activities in 2022.

This event will take place in person, and is only for Library members. Members will be asked to show their Library cards to enter.

No registration required.

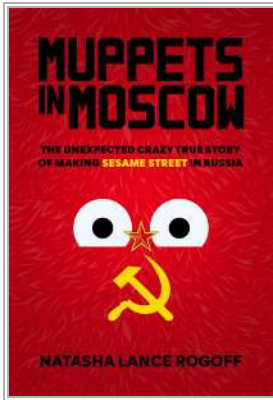


**The Case for Forgetting with Lewis Hyde
Online Event: Live on Zoom
Wednesday 20 June at 19h30 CEST**

From smartphones with unlimited storage to memorials scattered across cities to pseudo-scientific techniques for maintaining brain plasticity, memory is of central importance to our society. Author Lewis Hyde asks: Has memory been over-valued? Under what conditions might it be preferable to forget? Considering philosophy, art, and mythology; working through autobiography and cultural criticism, citing writers from Hesiod to Nietzsche to Borges, Hyde offers a manifesto for creativity: Out of oblivion, he proposes, comes the artistic capacity for the radically new.

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

[RSVP to attend on Zoom](#)



Natasha Lance Rogoff on Post-Soviet Sesame Street
Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom
Wednesday 21 June at 19h30 CEST

Early 1990s Russia: the wall has fallen, the Soviet Empire has collapsed, and a new social order is being built from the ground up. Faced with corrupt government officials, bumbling diplomats, traumatized citizens, and rapidly globalizing capitalism, a fractured nation holds onto a last hope for the salvation of their children: muppets. Join Natasha Lance Rogoff to discuss *Muppets in Moscow*, the “unexpected crazy true story” of her time as lead producer on Russia’s *Sesame Street*. From government raids to assassinations to clashes over puppet design, step into the world of *Ulitsa Sezam*.

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

RSVP to attend in person or on Zoom



Find recordings of past programs on our [YouTube](#) channel:

- The Task of Translation with Cécile Wajsbrot, Tess Lewis, and Anne Weber
- The Humanities in Crisis? with Merve Emre
- Jami Attenberg and Lauren Collins on Writing Through Life

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Evenings with an Author 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.



Children's and Teens' News

Unless otherwise noted, all events are for Library members, and advanced registration is required.



Click to see recommended reads for Pride Month, for readers of all ages.

Children's Event Highlights

[Design-Your-Own Book Covers](#) (ages 6–12) Saturday 3 June at 11h00

[Story Hour: Winged Wonders](#) (ages 3–5) Wednesday 7 June at 14h30

[Saturday Series: Super Comics](#) (ages 6–12) Saturday 10 June at 11h00

[Story Hour: Beach Party](#) (ages 3–5) Wednesday 14 June at 14h30

[The Inquisitor's Tale with Adam Gidwitz](#) (ages 6–adult) Saturday 1 July at 14h00

Teen event highlights (ages 12–18)

[Teen Night: Mystery Writing with Noah Weisz](#) Friday 2 June at 19h00

[Teen Night: Improv with Angelica Brewis](#) Friday 9 June at 19h00

[Athletic Recruiting in American Universities \(ages 14–adult\)](#) Sunday 11 June at 14h00

[The 11th Annual Literary Reaping](#) Saturday 17 June at 19h00

[YA Fantasy Book Club](#) Saturday 22 June at 12h30

[Winning at College, with Richard Montauk](#) (ages 14–adult) Sunday 25 June at 14h00

[Ping-Pong Play-Off](#) Friday 30 June at 19h00

[The Inquisitor's Tale with Adam Gidwitz](#) Saturday 1 July at 14h00

How Can You Help the American Library?



As an independent, non-profit institution, we rely on the support and generosity of our community. How can you help the American Library in Paris throughout the year? Renew your Library membership, make a donation online, become a volunteer, and tell your friends about the Library.

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The American Library in Paris is an independent, non-profit institution that receives no regular government funding. Your generosity is essential in keeping the Library vibrant and creative.

All contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

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