Sandra Cisneros
Anthony Doerr
Jonathan Franzen
Tony Hoagland
Mat Johnson
Sharon Olds
Helen Oyeyemi
Salman Rushdie
Tracy K. Smith
Dear Friends,

In recent years, scientific studies have verified what adventurous readers already know: that the reading of literary fiction (and, by extension, memoir and poetry) increases one’s tolerance for ambiguity and uncertainty, which in turn enhances both sophisticated thinking and creativity. The reading of literary fiction also enhances empathy. All of this leads, in the end, to more functional societies and, to quote one researcher, an “opening of the mind.” Now, doesn’t that make you sit up a little taller? As we enter the 35th season of the Inprint Margarett Root Brown Reading Series, presenting nine great writers over the course of seven nights, it’s easy to see how these findings can be confirmed. I look forward to our joining together, fellow scientists of the human spirit, to verify how language can move us, stimulate us, and maybe even change the way we live. In the process, we’ll spend evenings with nine remarkable authors and each other, devoted readers and writers. Thank you as always for making it all possible. See you at the readings.

Cheers,

Rich Levy
Executive Director
All readings take place on Monday nights at 7:30 pm (doors open at 6:45 pm). Readings are followed by an on-stage interview, a book sale, and book signing.
All readings begin at 7:30 pm and are followed by an on-stage interview and a book sale and signing. For reminders and event updates, join our email list through the Inprint website inprinthouston.org and follow us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com) and [Twitter](https://twitter.com).

**Season Tickets On Sale!**

Season tickets cost $175 and provide reserved section seating for each of the readings and other benefits. Check the back flap for details.

**General Admission Tickets**

Tickets for individual readings are sold in advance through the Inprint website for $5, and at the door on the night of a reading starting at 6:45 pm if the reading is not already sold out. Check interior pages to see when tickets go on sale online for each reading.

**Students and Senior Citizens (65+)**

Free “rush” tickets will be available at the door on the night of each reading starting at 6:45 pm if a reading is not already sold out. Check the Inprint website or call 713.521.2026 for updates on availability of free tickets closer to each reading.

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**Book Sales and Signings**

Brazos Bookstore, which serves as the official book seller for the Inprint Margarett Root Brown Reading Series, is offering discounts on books by the authors appearing in the series. Receive a 10% discount by reserving a book online or buying a book at the event. Show a ticket stub or an e-ticket on your mobile device from the most recent reading and receive a 15% discount at Brazos Bookstore on books for the next reading.

To learn more, visit the Inprint virtual store on Brazos Bookstore’s website:

[brazosbookstore.com/events/inprint](http://brazosbookstore.com/events/inprint)

Please support Houston independent bookstores. We recommend that all new Series titles be purchased at Brazos Bookstore.
Jonathan Franzen is “one of those exceptional writers whose works define an era and a generation, and his books demand to be read” (St. Louis Post-Dispatch). He is the celebrated author of four novels and five works of nonfiction and translation. Franzen became a literary star with the publication of The Corrections, which won the National Book Award, sold three million copies, and was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize, the National Book Critics Circle Award, and the PEN/Faulkner Award.

“Funny and deeply sad, large hearted and merciless, The Corrections,” according to David Foster Wallace, “is a testament to the range and depth of pleasures great fiction affords.” In his widely acclaimed fourth novel, Freedom, “Franzen pulls off the extraordinary feat of making the lives of his characters more real to you than your own,” writes David Hare. “One of the best living American novelists” (Time), Franzen comes to Houston on a limited tour to read from his highly anticipated novel Purity, coming out in September—a grand story of youthful idealism, extreme fidelity, and murder. Franzen is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the German Akademie der Künste, and the French Ordre des Arts et des Lettres.
Sandra Cisneros “is a writer for all people,” proclaims USA Today, and The New York Times Book Review says she is “not only a gifted writer, but an absolutely essential one.” Her works include two highly acclaimed novels, a story collection, two poetry collections, and an adult picture book. The first female Mexican-American writer to be published by a mainstream publisher, Cisneros is best known for her debut novel The House on Mango Street, which won the American Book Award, sold more than two million copies, and is now considered a literary classic. Her 2003 novel Caramelo was nominated for the Orange Prize, and her story collection Woman Hollering Creek won the Lannan Foundation Literary Award. Cisneros, recipient of a MacArthur Foundation “genius” fellowship and a Texas Medal for the Arts, is the founder of the Alfredo Cisneros del Moral and Macondo Foundations, which serve creative writers. She comes to Houston to share her new memoir A House of My Own, which will be published in October 2015—a richly illustrated and poignant compilation of private, political, and literary stories and nonfiction pieces that span three decades.

Presented in association with Rice University Multicultural Community Relations in the Office of Public Affairs

General admission tickets $5 on sale September 22, 2015 at inprinhouston.org
Salman Rushdie

Monday, November 9, 2015
7:30 pm

Cullen Theater,
Wortham Center
501 Texas Avenue

General admission tickets $5
on sale October 13, 2015 at inprinthouston.org

Salman Rushdie—for whom “the pen is a magician’s wand” (Financial Times)—is the internationally celebrated author of 11 novels, including Midnight’s Children, which won the Booker Prize and the “Best of the Bookers” and was called “one of the most important books to come out of the English-speaking world in this generation” (The New York Review of Books). His other highly regarded works include the novels The Satanic Verses, The Moor’s Last Sigh, The Enchantress of Florence, Shame, Haroun and the Sea of Stories, and Luka and the Fire of Life; a story collection; and four nonfiction books, including most recently Joseph Anton: A Memoir, which The Independent describes as “gripping, moving and entertaining.... nothing like it has ever been written.” Rushdie has also edited two anthologies, is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and was knighted in Britain in 2007 for his services to literature. He comes to Houston to read from his new novel Two Years Eight Months and Twenty-Eight Nights, a wonder tale set in the near future of New York City, which blends history, mythology, and a timeless love, and is loosely based on 1001 Arabian Nights. “Referencing Henry James, Mel Brooks, Mickey Mouse, Gracián, Bravo TV, and Aristotle, Rushdie provides readers with an intellectual treasure chest cleverly disguised as a comic pop-culture apocalyptic caprice.” (Publishers Weekly starred review)
Anthony Doerr's *New York Times* bestselling novel *All the Light We Cannot See* won the 2015 Pulitzer Prize, was a finalist for the National Book Award, and was named a best book of 2014 by NPR, *The Washington Post*, and *San Francisco Chronicle*. The *Washington Independent Review of Books* writes, “To open a book by Anthony Doerr is to open a door on humanity…. His sentences shimmer…. His paragraphs are luminous with bright, sparkling beauty.” *The Los Angeles Times* hails it as “a beautiful, expansive tale… ambitious and majestic,” *The Portland Oregonian* describes it as “nothing short of brilliant,” and *Booklist*, in a starred review, writes that “Doerr’s magnificently drawn story… masterfully and knowledgeably re-creates the deprived civilian conditions of war-torn France.” Doerr is also the author of the acclaimed story collections *The Shell Collector* and *Memory Wall*, the memoir *Four Seasons in Rome*, and the novel *About Grace*. His work has been widely anthologized, and he is the recipient of many other awards, including the Rome Prize from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, The Story Prize, and four Pushcart Prizes. Doerr was also named to *Granta*’s list of “21 Best Young American Novelists.”

General admission tickets $5
on sale November 10, 2015 at inprinthouston.org
Tracy K. Smith

Monday
February 29, 2016
7:30 pm

Stude Concert Hall,
Rice University

Tracy K. Smith’s memoir Ordinary Light, “one of the most-anticipated books of 2015” (Time Out New York), is according to Booklist “a gracefully nuanced yet strikingly candid memoir about family, faith, race, and literature.” The Minneapolis Star Tribune writes, “Ordinary Light shines bright because of the warm glow the memoir casts on the simple everyday life of a young girl yearning to do great things.... Her spare yet beautiful prose transforms her story into a shining example of how one person’s shared memories can brighten everyone’s world.” Acclaimed as a poet, Smith’s most recent poetry collection Life on Mars—in which, according to The New York Times Book Review, Smith “shows herself to be a poet of extraordinary range and ambition”—received the Pulitzer Prize and was named a New York Times Notable Book. Her collection Duende won the James Laughlin Award from the Academy of American Poets and the Essence Literary Award, and her debut The Body’s Question was awarded the Cave Canem Poetry Prize. Smith has also received the Rona Jaffe Writers Award and the Whiting Award. She teaches at Princeton.
Mat Johnson "is one of the funniest writers in America .... [He] gets at the heart of what it means to be a person—and he does so with more skill, generosity and, yes, love, than just about anyone else writing fiction today" (NPR). Johnson is author of four novels, including *Pym*, *Hunting in Harlem*, winner of the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award, and *Drop*; the nonfiction "novella" *The Great Negro Plot*; and three graphic novels, including *Incognegro*. Dwight Garner in *The New York Times* says his most recent novel *Loving Day* is about being blackish in America, a subject about which Mr. Johnson has emerged as satirist, historian, spy, social media trickster.... a powerful comic observer.... always worth reading on the topics of race and privilege." Johnson was the first USA James Baldwin Fellow and has won the John Dos Passos Prize for Literature. He teaches at the UH Creative Writing Program.

Helen Oyeyemi "is one of our most exciting, witty, and questioning novelists as well as quite simply a writer of sentences so elegant that they gleam" (*Times Literary Supplement*). Nigerian-born British writer, Oyeyemi's novel *Boy, Snow, Bird*, loosely based on *Snow White*, became a 2014 *New York Times* Notable Book and was described by *Kirkus Reviews* as “riveting, brilliant, and emotionally rich.... this masterpiece... captures both the complexities of racial and gender identity in the 20th century and the more intimate complexities of love in all its guises.” Her other works include the novels *The Icarus Girl* (written while in high school); *White Is for Witching*, winner of the Somerset Maugham Award; and *Mr. Fox*, which won the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award. In 2013 Oyeyemi was named one of *Granta*’s "Best Young British Novelists." She will read from *What Is Yours Is Not Yours*, her new novel-in-linked-stories coming out in March 2016.
Tony Hoagland’s “imagination ranges thrillingly across manners, morals, sexual doings, kinds of speech both lyrical and candid, intimate as well as wild,” writes the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Recipient of the Jackson Poetry Prize, Mark Twain Award, and Hardison Prize, Hoagland’s five poetry collections include the James Laughlin Award-winning Donkey Gospel, What Narcissism Means to Me, Unincorporated Persons in the Late Honda Dynasty, and his most recent Application for Release from the Dream. He is also author of two essay collections, Real Sofistikashun (a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award) and Twenty Poems that Could Save America. The Jackson Prize judges write, “It’s hard to imagine any aspect of contemporary American life that couldn’t make its way into the writing of Tony Hoagland…. He is a poet of risk: he risks wild laughter in poems that are totally heartfelt.” He teaches at the UH Creative Writing Program.

Sharon Olds, who was told in an early rejection to submit her poems to Ladies Home Journal, is now one of contemporary poetry’s leading voices. The author of a dozen collections, including The Unswept Room and One Secret Thing, she won the Pulitzer Prize and T.S. Eliot Prize (first woman to win it) for her most recent book Stag’s Leap, which deals with the breakup of her 32-year marriage. She also won National Book Critics Circle Awards for Strike Sparks: Selected Poems 1980-2002 and The Dead and the Living. Michael Ondaatje calls her poetry “pure fire in the hands,” cheering the “roughness and humor and brag and tenderness and completion in her work as she carries the reader through rooms of passion and loss.” Olds teaches at New York University and is a founder of the NYU writing workshops at Goldwater Hospital and for veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan.
Inprint Margarett Root Brown Reading Series Readers

Alice Adams  Kim Addonizio  Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie  Daniel Alarcón
Edward Albee  Elizabeth Alexander  Sherman Alexie  Julia Alvarez
Yehuda Amichai  Roger Angell  Max Apple  Rae Armantrout  Margaret Atwood
Toni Cade Bambara  Russell Banks  John Banville  Coleman Barks  Julian Barnes
Andrea Barrett  Donald Barthelme  Charles Baxter  Ann Beattie  Marvin Bell
Diane Gonzales Bertrand  Frank Bidart  Chana Bloch  Amy Bloom  Robert Bly
Eavan Boland  Robert Boswell  T. C. Boyle  David Bradley  Lucie Brock-Broido
Geraldine Brooks  Olga Broumas  Rosellen Brown  Dennis Brutus  Bill Bryson
Frederick Busch  A. S. Byatt  Hortense Calisher  Rafael Campo  Peter Carey
Anne Carson  Raymond Carver  Oscar Casares  Nina Cassian  Rosemary Catacalos
Lorna Dee Cervantes  Michael Chabon  Vikram Chandra  Nicholas Christopher
Sandra Cisneros  Amy Clampitt  Lucille Clifton  J. M. Coetzee  Judith Ortiz Cofer
Lorna Dee Cervantes  Michael Chabon  Vikram Chandra  Nicholas Christopher
Sandra Cisneros  Amy Clampitt  Lucille Clifton  J. M. Coetzee  Judith Ortiz Cofer

Jamaica Kincaid  Maxine Hong Kingston  Galway Kinnell  Carolyn Kizer
Kenneth Koch  Yusef Komunyakaa  Nicole Krauss  Maxine Kumin  Stanley Kunitz
Hari Kunzru  Tony Kushner  Jhumpa Lahiri  Chang-rae Lee  Li-Young Lee
Jonathan Lethem  Philip Levine  Phillip Lopate  Barry Lopez  Beverly Lowry
Lois Lowry  Dorianne Laux  Tom Lux  Cynthia Macdonald  Norma Manee
Dionisio Martinez  Ruben Martinez  Bobbie Ann Mason  William Matthews
Peter Matthiessen  Gail Mazur  David Mitchell  James McBride  Colum McCann
Elizabeth McCracken  Alice McDermott  Heather McGhie  Jay McInerney
Reginald McKnight  Terrence McNally  Sandra McPherson  James Merrill
W. S. Merwin  Leonard Michaels  Adrienne Leslie Miller  Czeslaw Milosz
Susan Mitchell  Mayra Montero  Rick Moody  Lorrie Moore  Mary Morris
Walter Mosley  Howard Moss  Taha Muhammad Ali  Bharati Mukherjee
Paul Muldoon  Harryette Mullenn  Alice Munro  Jack Myers  Antonya Nelson
Marilyn Nelson  Naomi Shihab Nye  Téa Obreht  Edna O’Neill  Alicia Ostriker
Ntozake Shange  Jane Shore  Gary Shteyngart  Charles Simic  Louis Simpson
Susan Sontag  Gilbert Sorrentino  Gary Soto  Elizabeth Spencer  David St. John
John Jeremiah Sullivan  Mary Szybist  Amy Tan  James Tate  Peter Taylor
Lorenzo Thomas Christopher Tilghman  Thomas Transtromer  Natasha Trethewey
Amos Tutuola  John updike  Luis Alberto Urrea  Jean Valentine  Mona Van Duyn
Mario Vargas Llosa  Abraham Verghese  Ellen Bryant Voigt  Derek Walcott
David Foster Wallace  Andrea White  Colson Whitehead  John Edgar Wideman
Richard Wilbur  C. K. Williams  John A. Williams  Joy Williams  Christian Wiman
David Wojahn  Tobias Wolff  Susan Wood  Daniel Woodrell  C. D. Wright
Charles Wright  Franz Wright  Jay Wright  David Wroblewski  Kevin Young
Adam Zagajewski  Gwendolyn Zepeda
About the Inprint Margarett Root Brown Reading Series

The Inprint Margarett Root Brown Reading Series is generously underwritten in large part by The Brown Foundation, Inc. Margarett Root Brown, an educator and lover of good books, was one of the Foundation’s directors when it was formed in 1917. Inprint is proud to honor Mrs. Brown’s service to Houston and her philanthropic support of the arts. To date, the Inprint Margarett Root Brown Reading Series, now in its 35th season, has presented more than 325 of the world’s great creative writers, including winners of 7 Nobel Prizes, 58 Pulitzer Prizes, 55 National Book Awards, 48 National Book Critics Circle Award, 14 Man Booker Prizes, as well as 17 U. S. Poets Laureate. The Series ranks among the nation’s leading literary showcases, with a modest general admission price unchanged since 1980, ensuring the readings are accessible to all.
To purchase season tickets by mail, send this form and a check payable to Inprint to:
Inprint
1520 W. Main
Houston, Texas 77006

The Inprint Margarett Root Brown Reading Series, now in its 35th season, is made possible by the support of The Brown Foundation, Inc., Weatherford International, the National Endowment for the Arts, and Rice University. Inprint receives support from The Arts and Culture Division of The City of Houston through the Office of Public Affairs. We are also deeply grateful for the support of United Airlines and Rice University Multicultural Community Relations in the Office of Public Affairs. Inprint also receives support from the Texas Commission on the Arts and The City of Houston through the Houston Arts Alliance. The Series is presented in association with Brazos Bookstore and the University of Houston Creative Writing Program.

Thank You!
We are deeply grateful for your support.
The purchase of season tickets, a portion of which is tax-deductible, helps make this series possible.

Season ticket benefits include:

- Seating in the reserved section for each of the seven readings. Seats held until 7:25 pm.
- Signed copy Jonathan Franzen’s new novel Purity, available for pick up at the reading. Those who purchase two season tickets per household will receive a signed copy of Salman Rushdie’s new novel Two Years Eight Months and Twenty-Eight Nights as the second book.
- Two reserved-section guest passes to be used during the 2015/2016 season.
- Recognition as a “Season Subscriber” in each reading program.
- An acknowledgement letter for tax purposes.

To purchase season tickets online or for more details on season subscriber benefits, visit inprinthouston.org

To pay by check, fill out the form on the back of this flap.