



LITERARY RESIDENCY

米氏西餐厅

**THE M RESTAURANT GROUP PROUDLY ANNOUNCES
NOT ONE BUT THREE RECIPIENTS FOR
THE 2019 M LITERARY RESIDENCY!**

In 2019 the M Restaurant Group is thrilled to be celebrating **20 years at M on the Bund** in Shanghai, **10 years of awarding the M Literary Residency**, **18 years since the inception of the Shanghai International Literary Festival** and 30, yes, **30 years since it started the M Restaurant Group in Hong Kong**.

When we started the M Literary Residency, its aim was to encourage a true exchange of ideas between cultures so we sponsored one writer's residency in China and one in India.

10 years on, the M Literary Residency is delighted to announce that in 2019/2020 not one, but three, residencies will be awarded to three excellent projects. The recipients will work in Shanghai over the next 12 months.

We received an outstanding selection of submissions covering a wide and fascinating range of subjects, so choosing to whom to award the residency was an especially hard task for this year's 20+ judges.

Since its inception, the M Literary Residency has supported over 20 writers and published more than 20 books, many of which have been both shortlisted and longlisted for major world literary prizes.

We are delighted to introduce the recipients of the 2019/2020 M Literary Residency:

JULIET PETRUS is a classical singer and Chinese music specialist. She will use her time in Shanghai to complete the manuscript of the upcoming release, *SINGING IN MANDARIN*, the next edition in the 'Singing in' Vocal Diction Series for the American publisher Rowman and Littlefield. The M Literary Residency will allow Juliet close collaboration with her co-writer Katherine Chu, who is based in Suzhou, and give her access to the resources unique to the classical vocal music scene in Shanghai and China.

STEVEN SCHWANKERT's book project is to solve the mystery of one of China's forgotten maritime disasters; one that claimed more lives than the Titanic and that is unexplained to this day, more than 70 years later. It's the story of one of the world's great shipwrecks, the victims of which could have been observed boarding and setting off from where M on the Bund and M Glam now stand.

VARSHA UPRAITY is a Nepali writer and researcher, currently based in Kathmandu. She writes poems and narrative fiction and has academic interests in the relationship between gender and resilience in the aftermath of traumatic phenomenon. She is currently working on two independent projects; a collection of short stories revolving around the experiences of women in contemporary Kathmandu, and a novel that tells the story of a man who disappears and the impact of this event on seven people who know him.

For more information, please contact Jane Chen at jane@m-onthebund.com.

M Literary Residency: Background

The M Residency allows writers with an abiding interest in China to deepen their understanding of this vital and fascinating place. Established in 2009 and fully funded by the M Restaurant Group, the Residency has its roots in M's Shanghai International Literary Festival and aims to foster artistic, cultural and intellectual links between individuals and communities. Many residents have published works completed during the M Literary Residency; to date, we have fostered over 20 published works.

“This year all three writer’s projects are truly remarkable and it was indeed a very hard choice, even narrowing it down to 3 projects. Though each is unique, all have been chosen for their writing excellence, their clarity of explanation, their willingness to explore new ideas and their efforts to bring new voices to the literary world,” Michelle Garnaut said. “The themes they deal with are incredibly relevant and concern people from all walks of life, all over the world.”

Michelle Garnaut

Michelle Garnaut is the CEO & Founder of the M Restaurant Group and the Shanghai International Literary Festival, China’s longest-running literary festival.

For more information on the M Restaurant Group, please contact Jane Chen at jane@m-onthebund.com.

Prior Recipients of the M Literary Residency

2018 M Literary Residency Shanghai recipient **Jeremy Tiang** is the author of *State of Emergency* and *It Never Rains on National Day* (shortlisted for the Singapore Literature Prize) and the translator of more than ten books from Chinese, including novels by Zhang Yueran, Chan Ho-Kei, Yeng Pway Ngon and Tianxia Bachang. He has been awarded an NEA Literary Translation Fellowship, a Henry Luce Foundation Fellowship and the People's Literature Prize Mao-Tai Cup for Translation. Jeremy also writes and translates plays. He lives in Brooklyn.

2017 Recipients

Diana Xin, a China native who was raised and educated in the US, has published her short stories in some of the most influential publications and journals across the continent. Her creative nonfiction was named *Narrative Magazine's* Top 5 Stories of 2015-2016 and winner of *Beecher's Magazine* 2016 creative nonfiction contest. Diana spent her residency in Beijing working on several new essays for publication and incorporated elements of the city into an overarching narrative for a larger project. Her works are inspired by her parents, who come from nearby Hebei province, her family, and the exploration of her own cultural identity.

Hailing from Australia, **Fiona Wright** has won notable literary awards for her first poetry collection, *Knuckled*, and her book of essays, *Small Acts of Disappearance*. A critic and editor, Fiona has recently completed a PhD at Western Sydney University's Writing & Society Research Centre and launched her new poetry collection, *Domestic Interior*. In Shanghai, Fiona worked on her second collection of essays, *Homing In*, which explores cultural and personal ideas about homes, cities, social identities and ordinary spaces, centered on modern urban and suburban lifestyles.

2016 Recipients

Maxim Loskutoff was raised in western Montana. His stories have appeared in *The Southern Review*, *The Gettysburg Review* and *Narrative*. A graduate of NYU's MFA program, he was the recipient of a Global Writing Fellowship in Abu Dhabi. Other honors include *The Chicago Tribune's* Nelson Algren Award, the Bevel Summers Prize and fellowships from Writers Omi at Ledig House, Ox-Bow and Jentel Arts. He has worked as a carpenter, field organizer, bookseller and creative writing teacher, among many other things.

Meng Jin was born in Shanghai and lives in New York. She has a BA from Harvard and an MFA from Hunter College. A Kundiman fellow, her short fiction has appeared or is forthcoming in *The Masters Review*, *The Baltimore Review*, *Zymbol* and *Ploughshares*. Meng Jin's first novel, *Little Gods*, is to be published in January 2020 by HarperCollins.

2015 Recipients

Eleanor Goodman is a poet, writer and translator. A collection of her own poetry, *Nine Dragon Island*, was published in 2017. Her book of translations, *Something Crosses My Mind: Selected Poems of Wang Xiaoni* (Zephyr Press, 2014) was the recipient of a 2013 PEN/Heim Translation Grant. Eleanor is a Research Associate at the Fairbank Center at Harvard University and spent a year at Peking University on a Fulbright Fellowship. She has been an artist in residence at the American Academy in Rome and was awarded a Henry Luce Translation Fellowship from the Vermont Studio Center.

Giles Hazelgrove was born in Brighton and lives in London. He studied English and Drama at Goldsmiths and found that acting was just embarrassing, so he became a prop maker for a puppet theatre instead. Outgrowing that, he also worked as an interior designer and as a property developer in Barcelona.

His first novel, *Confluence* was written in 2014 as part of the MA in Creative Writing at City University. It has been short listed for the Peters Fraser and Dunlop City Novel Prize.

He has just learnt that 'sangam' is Hindi for 'confluence' and can't stop thinking about it. The working title of Giles' next project is *Outside Bangalore*.

2014 Recipients

Jeet Thayil is the author of *Narcopolis*, a novel of the opium world in 1970s Bombay, drawing on his own experiences as a drug addict. The novel won the DSC Prize for South Asian Literature 2013 and was shortlisted for the Man Booker and the Man Asian Literary Prize. Born in Kerala, India, he was educated in Hong Kong, New York and Mumbai. He is a performance poet, songwriter and guitarist as well as a writer, and has published four collections of poetry. He is the editor of *The Bloodaxe Book of Contemporary Indian Poets* (2008).

Liam Pieper's second book, *Mistakes Were Made*, was published within months of his return from Sangam House. He found himself writing so prolifically that two more works were nearly completed. He is a freelance writer whose recent credits include *The Lifted Brow*, *Going Down Swinging* and *The Sleepers Almanac*.

2013 Recipients

Madeleine Thien's fourth novel, *Do Not Say We Have Nothing*, about musicians studying Western classical music at the Shanghai Conservatory in the 1960s, was published in 2016. Madeleine is also the author of three books of fiction, including *Dogs at the Perimeter*, published by Granta Books in 2012. She is a previous finalist for the Kiriyama Prize and the Commonwealth Writers Prize for Best First Book and won the 2006 Amazon First Novel Award and the 2010 Ovid Festival Prize. Her stories and essays have appeared in *The Guardian*, *Granta*, *PEN America*, *Five Dials*, *Brick* and the *Asia Literary Review*, and her novels have been translated into eighteen languages. Born in Vancouver, she lives in Montreal.

Glenn Diaz's first novel, *The Quite Ones*, was published in late 2017. Born and raised in Manila, he graduated from the University of the Philippines Diliman in 2008 and is now in the MA creative writing program at the same university. His works have appeared in various literary publications, including the *Quarterly Literary Review Singapore* and *Likhaan 5: The*

Journal of Contemporary Philippine Literature. He has been a recipient of fellowships from several national writing workshops. He is a freelance writer, researcher and editor.

South African writer **Karen Jennings** is the author of *Travels with my Father*, which she wrote whilst at Sangam House on the M Literary Residency. Her earlier books include *Finding Soutbek* and a short story collection *Away from the Dead* published in 2014. She won the 2010 Commonwealth Short Story Competition (African region) for 'From Dark'. Her story 'Mia and the Shark' won the English section of the Maskew Miller Longman short story competition and is now taught in schools. She holds Masters degrees in both English Literature and Creative Writing from the University of Cape Town and began a PhD in Creative Writing from the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

2011 Recipients

Rachel DeWoskin, recipient of the China Residency, is the author of *Two Menus: Poems* (The University of Chicago Press, 2020), *Banshee* (Dottir Press, 2019), *Someday We Will Fly* (Penguin, 2019), *Blind* (Penguin, 2014), *Big Girl Small* (FSG, 2011), *Repeat After Me* (The Overlook Press, 2009) and *Foreign Babes in Beijing* (W.W. Norton, 2005). She is on the core fiction faculty at the University of Chicago, and is an affiliated faculty member of the Centers for East Asian Studies and Jewish Studies.

Whilst in residence in Shanghai, she finished her novel *Blind* and began writing *Someday We Will Fly*, inspired by her time in the Embankment Building in Hongkou district.

Francesca Marciano, who won the India Residency, is the author of three novels, *Rules of the Wild*, *Casa Rossa* and *The End of Manners*, as well as numerous screenplays. Francesca completed a book of short stories whilst at Sangam House. *The Other Language* was published in 2013.

2010 Recipients

The first recipients of the M Literary Residencies, **Tash Aw** (China) and **Colie Hoffman** (India) completed their residencies in 2010.

Tash Aw, a Malaysian-born novelist, used his China Residency to work on his third novel, *Five Star Billionaire*, set in Shanghai, which was longlisted for the Man Booker Prize 2013 and is currently being adapted for a film to be shot in Shanghai. “The M Literary Residency is unique in being both thoroughly urban and perfectly isolated. I could choose to shut myself away all day or go to galleries, cinemas and restaurants in the evening. Deciding just how much (or little) to engage with the largest city in China was one of the great joys of this residency.” he said.

American poet **Colie Hoffman** used her India residency to work on her first full-length book of poetry. “The M Literary Residency was an incredible gift,” said Colie. “Having all that time, space, and freedom to write...and the experience of being in India among so many talented artists...expanded my work, and my world, immeasurably.”

The M Literary Residency is fully funded by M Restaurant Group.

For more information or for press enquiries, please contact Jane Chen at mliteraryresidency@m-restaurantgroup.com.