

The Dallas Museum of Art Announces the lineup for its first BooksmART Festival on Saturday, June 11

A Free Day of Events, Activities, and Entertainment Celebrating Literature and the Arts for Families and Children of All Ages Featuring Authors, Illustrators, Actors, and Musicians

Today the Dallas Museum of Art announced the lineup for the first annual BooksmART Festival. This daylong free festival at the DMA celebrating literature and the arts for families and children of all ages will feature authors and illustrators, artists, workshops, gallery tours, music, and much more. Admission to the Museum and the festival will be free from 11:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m., and community partners, including the Crow Collection of Asian Art, Dallas County Community College District, and Dallas Theater Center, will collaborate on programs throughout the festival. Performances include appearances by children's songwriter and performer Joe McDermott and Faeren, the Austin-based performance group led by Jan Bozarth, author of the popular *Fairy Godmother Academy* series.

The Museum's aim with the first annual BooksmART Festival is to provide youth and families with high-quality arts and cultural experiences and opportunities to experience and participate in a wide range of arts forms and activities that stimulate creativity and learning. Visitors will be able to meet authors and illustrators throughout the day, have opportunities to participate in illustration workshops and book signings, hear the authors speak about their work, and join them for story time.

The award-winning, multicultural lineup includes *New York Times* bestselling authors, Caldecott Medal winners, a Coretta Scott King Award winner, an American Library Association's Printz Award winner, and National Book Award nominees. Highlights of the day include appearances by the following:

- **Rick Riordan** is the number one *New York Times* bestselling author of the *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* series. While at the BooksmART Festival, he will discuss his latest book in *The Kane Chronicles* series, in which he turns his attention to Egyptian mythology.
- **Norton Juster** is the author of the beloved children's classic *The Phantom Tollbooth*, which is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary this year.
- **Laurie Halse Anderson** is a two-time National Book Award finalist for her books *Speak* and *Chains*. Anderson will discuss *Forge*, the recently released historical fiction book and follow-up story to *Chains*.
- **David Wiesner** is a three-time winner of the Caldecott Medal, making him only the second person in the award's history to have won this honor three times. He has also received two Caldecott Honors during his career as an author and illustrator. He will share insight about his popular picture book *Art & Max*.
- **Jerry Pinkney** has received a Caldecott Medal, Five Caldecott Honors, and Five Coretta Scott King Awards, has illustrated over 100 titles, and was recently elected to the Society of Illustrators Hall of Fame. He will discuss the body of his work, including the Caldecott Medal winner *The Lion and the Mouse*.

Other authors appearing during the BooksmART Festival include the Mexican author of *Dear Primo: A Letter to My Cousin*, **Duncan Tonatiuh**. He will talk about his new picture book *Diego Rivera: His World and Ours*, which introduces Diego Rivera to young readers. The Dallas Museum of Art will partner with the Crow Collection of Asian Art to present graphic novelist **Gene Luen Yang** in their galleries. He is the author of *American Born Chinese*, the first graphic novel ever nominated for a National Book Award and the first to win the American Library Association's Printz Award. **Cynthia Leitich Smith** is a Native American author who is a member of the Muscogee Creek Nation. Smith writes on a wide variety of

subjects and for a wide variety of ages. She will discuss her new book, *Blessed*, which follows the characters from her previous books *Tantalize* and *Eternal*. She will also discuss her books *Indian Shoes* and *Jingle Dancer*, which focus on her roots as a Native American. Cuban-American writer and bilingual storyteller **Antonio Sacre** will discuss his children's books, including *The Barking Mouse*, a retelling of a Cuban folktale, and *A Mango in the Hand*.

The BooksmART Festival is supported in part by funds from the Hoglund Foundation. The Essilor Vision Foundation will be on-site throughout the BooksmART Festival to provide free vision exams and glasses to attendees who qualify. For updated programming information, including a schedule of the BooksmART Festival, visit DallasMuseumofArt.org/ALL.

About the Essilor Vision Foundation

Essilor Vision Foundation is a public nonprofit charity established by Dallas-based Essilor of America, the leading manufacturer of optical lenses in the United States. The foundation's mission is to eliminate poor vision and its lifelong consequences.

We strive to give children a brighter future by helping them see the world more clearly. Our programs focus on improving the quality of school vision screenings so fewer children slip through the cracks, providing eye exams and eyeglasses to children who would not get them otherwise, and educating parents and communities about the importance of children's vision care and the role it plays in literacy, society, and the economy.

About the Dallas Museum of Art

Located in the vibrant Arts District of downtown Dallas, Texas, the Dallas Museum of Art (DMA) ranks among the leading art institutions in the country and is distinguished by its innovative exhibitions and groundbreaking educational programs. At the heart of the Museum and its programs are its global collections, which encompass more than 24,000 works and span 5,000 years of history, representing a full range of world cultures. Established in 1903, the Museum welcomes approximately 600,000 visitors annually and acts as a catalyst for community creativity, engaging people of all ages and backgrounds with a diverse spectrum of programming, from exhibitions and lectures to concerts, literary readings, and dramatic and dance presentations.

Arts & Letters Live is the Museum's literary and performing arts series, which this year is celebrating its 20th anniversary season. Arts & Letters Live's BooksmART series features award-winning authors and illustrators for the young and young-at-heart.

The Dallas Museum of Art is supported in part by the generosity of Museum members and donors and by the citizens of Dallas through the City of Dallas/Office of Cultural Affairs and the Texas Commission on the Arts.

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