

## BAM 2019 Winter/Spring Season

---

***Unbound*, a book launch series co-presented by BAM and Greenlight Bookstore, celebrates the release of *Ink Knows No Borders: Poems of the Immigrant and Refugee Experience*—Mar 14**

**Bloomberg Philanthropies is The Season Sponsor**

***Unbound: Ink Knows No Borders: Poems of the Immigrant and Refugee Experience***

Featuring readings by and conversation with poets Safia Elhillo, Carlos Andrés Gómez, Chrysanthemum Tran, and Javier Zamora  
Co-presented by BAM and Greenlight Bookstore

**BAM Fisher (Fishman Space), 321 Ashland Pl**

Mar 14 at 7pm

Tickets start at \$20 (event only) and \$30 (with book)

A sign language-interpreted event. For more information, or to purchase ASL seat locations, please email [info@BAM.org](mailto:info@BAM.org)

**Jan 8, 2019/Brooklyn, NY**— As part of BAM's *Unbound* series, some of today's most compelling and vibrant poets come to BAM to launch *Ink Knows No Borders: Poems of the Immigrant and Refugee Experience* (Seven Stories Press), a collection that reflects the experiences of first- and second-generation young adult immigrants and refugees. The book addresses cultural and language differences, homesickness, social exclusion, racism, and stereotyping, and raises questions about identity. Poets included within the collection, which is edited by Patrice Vecchione and Alyssa Raymond, encourage readers to honor their roots as well as explore new paths, offering empathy and hope.

Patrice Vecchione, will introduce the evening. Safia Elhillo, Carlos Andrés Gómez, Chrysanthemum Tran, and Javier Zamora will present their own poems and others within the collection that inspire them, followed by a conversation moderated by Zamora and questions from the audience.

**Safia Elhillo** is the author of *The January Children* (University of Nebraska Press, 2017), recipient of the 2016 Sillerman First Book Prize for African Poets and a 2018 Arab American Book Award. Sudanese by way of Washington, DC, she holds a BA from NYU's Gallatin School of Individualized Study and an MFA in poetry from the New School. Safia is a Pushcart Prize nominee, receiving a special mention for the 2016 Pushcart Prize. She was co-winner of the 2015 Brunel International African Poetry Prize, and listed in *Forbes Africa's* 2018 "30 Under 30." Her fellowships and residencies include Cave Canem, The

BAM COMMUNICATIONS  
718.636.4129  
[PRESS@BAM.ORG](mailto:PRESS@BAM.ORG)  
BAM.ORG

BROOKLYN ACADEMY OF MUSIC  
PETER JAY SHARP BUILDING  
30 LAFAYETTE AVENUE  
BROOKLYN, NY 11217—1486

Conversation, SPACE on Ryder Farm, and a 2018 Ruth Lilly and Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg fellowship from The Poetry Foundation. Her work appears in *Poetry* magazine, *Callaloo*, and The Academy of American Poets' Poem-a-day series, among others, and in anthologies including *The BreakBeat Poets: New American Poetry in the Age of Hip-Hop* and *Women of Resistance: Poems for a New Feminism*. With Fatimah Asghar, she is co-editor of the anthology *Halal If You Hear Me* (Haymarket Books, 2019). Elhillo has shared her work on platforms such as [TEDxNewYork](#), the BBC World Service, the South African State Theatre, and Red Bull's Frontiers.

**Carlos Andrés Gómez** is a Colombian-American poet and the author of the memoir *Man Up: Reimagining Modern Manhood*, released by Penguin Random House. Winner of the *Atlanta Review* International Poetry Prize, *Sequestrum* Editor's Reprint Award in Poetry, Lucille Clifton Poetry Prize, and a two-time Pushcart Prize nominee, his work has appeared in the *North American Review*, *Beloit Poetry Journal*, *CHORUS: A Literary Mixtape* (Simon & Schuster, 2012), and elsewhere. A star of HBO's *Def Poetry Jam*, TV One's *Verses and Flow*, and Spike Lee's #1 box office movie *Inside Man* with Denzel Washington, Carlos recently partnered with John Legend for Senior Orientation, a program to counteract bullying and champion inclusive masculinity among high school students. He is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and the MFA Program for Writers at Warren Wilson College. [CarlosLive.com](#)

**Chrysanthemum Tran** is a nationally touring poet, performer, and educator based in Rhode Island by way of Oklahoma. In 2016, she became the first trans woman finalist of the Woman of the World Poetry Slam. She is a Pink Door Fellow, as well as a Rustbelt and FEMS Poetry Slam Champion. Tran's work can be found in *Them*, *The Offing*, and the *Bettering American Poetry* anthology, among others.

**Javier Zamora** was born in El Salvador and migrated to the US when he was nine. He is a Radcliffe Fellow at Harvard University and holds fellowships from CantoMundo, Colgate University, Lannan Foundation, MacDowell, National Endowment for the Arts, Poetry Foundation, Stanford University, and Yaddo. Zamora's poetry and prose appear in *Granta*, *The Kenyon Review*, *Poetry*, *The New York Times*, and elsewhere. *Unaccompanied* (Copper Canyon Press Sept. 2017) is his first collection. [javierzamora.net](#)

**Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM)** is recognized internationally for its innovative programming of dance, music, theater, opera, and film. Its mission is to be the home for adventurous artists, audiences, and ideas. BAM presents leading national and international artists and companies in its annual Winter/Spring Season and highlights groundbreaking, contemporary work in the performing arts with its Next Wave Festival each fall. Founded in 1983, the Next Wave is one of the world's most important festivals of contemporary performing arts. BAM Film features new, independent film releases and a curated, daily repertory film program. In 2012, BAM added the Richard B. Fisher Building to its campus, providing an intimate and flexible 250-seat performance venue—the Fishman Space—as well as the Hillman Studio, a rehearsal and performance space. BAM serves New York City's diverse population through community events, literary series, and a wide variety of educational and family programs. BAM, America's oldest performing arts center, has presented performances since 1861, and attracts an audience of more than 750,000 people each year. Visit [BAM.org](#).

Founded in October 2009, **Greenlight Bookstore** is a general independent bookstore with two store locations in Brooklyn, as well as kiosks at BAM theaters. Through knowledgeable staff, curated book selection, community partnerships, and a robust e-commerce website as well as beautiful bookstore spaces on Fulton Street and Flatbush Avenue, Greenlight combines the best traditions of the neighborhood bookstore with a forward-looking sensibility. Greenlight has garnered local, national, and international press coverage for its innovative startup model and its continuing success. In addition to partnering with BAM on the *Unbound* series, Greenlight hosts literary events in its stores several nights a week. For more information, visit [greenlightbookstore.com](http://greenlightbookstore.com).

For press information contact Sandy Sawotka, [ssawotka@bam.org](mailto:ssawotka@bam.org) or 718.636.4190.

#### Credits

Bloomberg Philanthropies is the Season Sponsor.

Programming in the BAM Howard Gilman Opera House and the Signature Artist Series is supported and endowed by the Howard Gilman Foundation.

Leadership support for every season provided by the BAM Board of Trustees, led by Adam E. Max, Chair; William I. Campbell, Vice Chair; and Nora Ann Wallace, Vice Chair.

Delta Air Lines is the Official Airline of BAM.

The Brooklyn Hospital Center is the Official Healthcare Provider of BAM.

Your tax dollars make BAM programs possible through funding from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature. The BAM facilities are owned by the City of New York and benefit from public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs with support from Mayor Bill de Blasio; Cultural Affairs Commissioner Tom Finkelpearl; the New York City Council including Council Speaker Corey Johnson, Finance Committee Chair Daniel Dromm, Cultural Affairs Committee Chair Jimmy Van Bramer, Council Member Laurie A. Cumbo, and the Brooklyn Delegation of the Council; and Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams. BAM would like to thank the Brooklyn Delegations of the New York State Assembly, Joseph R. Lentol, Delegation Leader; and New York Senate, Senator Velmanette Montgomery.

#### General Information

BAM Howard Gilman Opera House, BAM Rose Cinemas, and BAMcafé are located in the Peter Jay Sharp building at 30 Lafayette Avenue (between St Felix Street and Ashland Place) in the Fort Greene neighborhood of Brooklyn. BAM Harvey Theater is located two blocks from the main building at 651 Fulton Street (between Ashland and Rockwell Places). Both locations house Greenlight Bookstore at BAM kiosks. BAM Fisher, located at 321 Ashland Place, is the newest addition to the BAM campus and houses the Judith and Alan Fishman Space and Rita K. Hillman Studio. BAM Rose Cinemas is Brooklyn's only movie house dedicated to first-run independent and foreign film and repertory programming. BAMcafé, operated by Great Performances, offers varied light fare and bar service prior to BAM Howard Gilman Opera House evening performances.

Subway: 2, 3, 4, 5, Q, B to Atlantic Avenue – Barclays Center (2, 3, 4, 5 to Nevins St for Harvey Theater) D, N, R to Pacific Street; G to Fulton Street; C to Lafayette Avenue

Train: Long Island Railroad to Atlantic Terminal – Barclays Center  
Bus: B25, B26, B41, B45, B52, B63, B67 all stop within three blocks of BAM

For ticket information, call BAM Ticket Services at 718.636.4100, or visit [BAM.org](http://BAM.org).

###