

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Photo available

## **Barry Lopez Hosts the 20th Annual Oregon Book Awards**

PORTLAND, Ore. – Literary Arts is pleased to announce that National Book Award winner Barry Lopez will serve as master of ceremonies of the 20th Annual Oregon Book Awards, which take place on **Friday, December 1** at **7:30 p.m.** at the **Portland Art Museum** (1119 SW Park Avenue). Tickets are \$15 at [www.literary-arts.org](http://www.literary-arts.org) or by calling 503.227.2583.

**Barry Lopez** received the first-ever Oregon Book Award in Literary Nonfiction in 1987 for *Arctic Dreams*. The author of 15 works of fiction and nonfiction and a long-time Oregon resident, he is the recipient of last year's Oregon Book Award in Short Fiction for *Resistance*. He is also the editor of *Home Ground: Language for an American Landscape*, to be released at the end of September. The book has been called "a landmark work of language, geography, and folklore."

The 20th Annual Oregon Book Awards ceremony will take place in the Fields Ballroom of the Portland Art Museum. "We're thrilled to bring the Awards back to the Portland Art Museum," says Literary Arts executive director Elizabeth Burnett. "The Art Museum was the site of several Oregon Book Awards ceremonies in the early 1990s. It's the perfect place to celebrate the 20th anniversary of this special program."

The Oregon Book Awards recognize the year's finest accomplishments by Oregon writers in the genres of poetry, fiction, literary nonfiction, drama and young readers literature, as well as overall contributions to the state's literary culture. Since 1987, the program has honored nearly 400 Oregon writers. The ceremony on December 1st will involve literary luminaries such as Ursula K. Le Guin and Brian Booth, founder of the Oregon Institute of Literary Arts. A reception and book-signing will follow the ceremony.

Important dates for the 20th Annual Oregon Book Awards include:

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| <b>September 25</b> | Oregon Book Awards Special Awards recipients announced   |
| <b>October 2</b>    | Oregon Book Awards finalists announced<br>Visit <a href="http://www.literary-arts.org">www.literary-arts.org</a>   |
| <b>November 8</b>   | Readings by Oregon Book Awards Finalists<br>6:30 p.m., Japanese Garden<br>(611 SW Kingston Avenue, Portland)<br>Hosted by <i>Portland Monthly</i><br>and author Chelsea Cain<br>Tickets: \$10 at 503.222.5144 x133 |
| <b>November 15</b>  | Readings by Oregon Book Awards Finalists<br>6:30 p.m., Japanese Garden<br>(611 SW Kingston Avenue, Portland)<br>Hosted by <i>Portland Monthly</i><br>and author Marc Acito<br>Tickets: \$10 at 503.222.5144 x133   |
| <b>December 1</b>   | 20th Annual Oregon Book Awards<br>7:30 p.m., Portland Art Museum<br>(1119 SW Park Avenue, Portland)<br>Tickets: \$15 at <a href="http://www.literary-arts.org">www.literary-arts.org</a>                           |

The Oregon Book Awards is sponsored by the Oregon Cultural Trust, investing in Oregon's arts, humanities and heritage. Additional support is provided by Betty Bradshaw, Leslie Bradshaw Endowment Fund, The Collins Foundation, Gray Family Fund of The Oregon Community Foundation, The Heathman Hotel, Robert H. and Cecelia Huntington, The Ruth Manary Fund of The Samuel S. Johnson Foundation, Walt Morey Endowment Fund, Multnomah County Library, Oregon Arts Commission, Oregon Center for the Book at the Oregon State Library, Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association, Regional Arts & Culture Council, Rose E. Tucker Charitable Trust and Viviano Design.

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The Oregon Book Awards is a program of Literary Arts, a statewide, nonprofit organization dedicated to enriching the lives of Oregonians through language and literature. Other programs of Literary Arts are Oregon Literary Fellowships, Portland Arts & Lectures, Poetry Downtown, Poetry In Motion®, Writers in the Schools and Delve: Readers' Seminars. For more information about Literary Arts, please contact Barbara Verchot at 503.227.2583 or visit [www.literary-arts.org](http://www.literary-arts.org).