



LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

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Library of Virginia and VMFA Announce Winner of Annual Art in Literature Award Recipient to be honored at the 2018 Library of Virginia Literary Awards in October

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Richmond, VA – The Library of Virginia and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts are pleased to announce the winner of the annual **Art in Literature: The Mary Lynn Kotz Award**. The judges selected ***Sargent's Women: Four Lives Behind the Canvas*** by **Donna M. Lucey**. Lucey will be recognized on Friday, October 19, 2018, at the VMFA and on Saturday, October 20, 2018, at the Library of Virginia's annual Virginia Literary Awards Celebration.

ABOUT THE WORK

The fascinating backstories of four women painted by John Singer Sargent come alive in this seductive, multilayered biography. With unprecedented access to newly discovered sources, Lucey illuminates the lives of four extraordinary women painted by the iconic high-society portraitist.

With uncanny clairvoyance, Sargent's portraits hint at the mysteries, passions, and tragedies that unfolded in his subjects' lives. Sequestered in a fantasyland castle in the remote Rocky Mountains, Elsie Palmer carried on a labyrinthine love life. Elizabeth Chanler stepped into a maze of infidelity with her best friend's husband. As the veiled image of Sally Fairchild—beautiful, commanding, and poison-tongued—emerged on Sargent's canvas, the power of his artistry lured her sister Lucia into an ill-fated life in art. Shrewd, iron-willed Isabella Stewart Gardner collected both art and young men. Born to unimaginable wealth, these women lived on an operatic scale, and their letters and diaries create a rich depiction of the Gilded Age and the acclaimed but secretive painter whose canvases defined the era.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Lucey is the author of the *New York Times* best-selling book *Archie and Amélie: Love and Madness in the Gilded Age* and the award-winning work *Photographing Montana 1894–1928: The Life and Work of Evelyn Cameron*, as well as other books, articles, and a feature-length screenplay. The recipient of two grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, and a 2017 writer-in-residence at The Mount (home of author Edith Wharton), Lucey serves as media editor at Virginia Humanities in Charlottesville, where she lives with her husband, author Henry Wiencek.

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ABOUT THE AWARD

Art in Literature: The Mary Lynn Kotz Award recognizes an outstanding book in fiction or nonfiction published in the previous year that is written primarily in response to a work (or works) of art while also showing the highest literary quality as a creative or scholarly work. Submissions can include works of journalism, poetry, fiction, biography, or history, as well as museum exhibition catalogs. This unique award, established in 2013, is named in honor of Mary Lynn Kotz, author of the award-winning biography *Rauschenberg: A Life*. The inaugural award recipient was *The Innocence of Objects* by Nobel Laureate Orhan Pamuk. Last year's winner was Dawn Tripp for her novel *Georgia: A Novel*, about Georgia O'Keeffe and her love affair with photographer Alfred Stieglitz. The Art in Literature Award is presented each year during the annual Virginia Literary Awards celebration weekend, which takes place in Richmond, Virginia.

EVENTS

Friday, October 19, 2018 | 6:00–8:00 PM

Art in Literature: The Mary Lynn Kotz Award

VMFA, Marble Hall, 200 N. Boulevard, Richmond

This event will feature a presentation by the award recipient, Donna M. Lucey, followed by a book signing and reception.

Saturday, October 20, 2018 | 6:00–10:30 PM

Library of Virginia Literary Awards Celebration

Library of Virginia, 800 E. Broad St., Richmond

The winners of the fiction, nonfiction, and poetry awards—as well as the People's Choice Awards—will be announced on Saturday, October 20, 2018, at the 21st Annual Library of Virginia Literary Awards Celebration honoring Virginia authors and friends. This gala event, sponsored by Dominion Energy, attracts authors, publishers, and those who enjoy the written word. Featured speaker will be author Susan Orlean, whose latest work, *The Library Book*, will be published on October 16, 2018. Award-winning author Adriana Trigiani will again serve as host for this event.

For ticket information, please call 804.692.3813 or visit www.literaryva.com.

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