

The American Library in Paris

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Dispatches from the Library

8 November 2024

Book Award 2024 Winner The Rebel's Clinic: The Revolutionary Life of Frantz Fanon by Adam Shatz

Congratulations to Adam Shatz for The Rebel's Clinic: The Revolutionary Life of Frantz Fanon (Farrar, Straus and Giroux), winner of the twelfth annual American Library in Paris Book Award. The announcement was made before an audience of Library supporters on 7 November at the George C. Marshall Center in the Hôtel de Talleyrand on the Place de la Concorde.

In The Rebel's Clinic, Shatz offers a dramatic reconstruction of Fanon's extraordinary life—and a guide to the books that underlie today's most vital efforts to challenge white supremacy and racial capitalism. The book is a significant, readable, well-researched biography of Fanon and a brilliant, nuanced exploration of his ideas.



In awarding this year's prize, the 2024 Book Award jury—**Andrew Sean Greer** (jury chair), **Ayelet Waldman**, and **Jonas Hassen Khemiri**—wrote:

"An unflinching portrayal of a revolutionary figure torn between his ideals and inner turmoil. The personal story Shatz brings to life is remarkable but the book's real accomplishment is to illuminate the development of Fanon's ideology, political, intellectual and profoundly personal, even emotional. Shatz has given us a Fanon for all thinkers and readers, captured with freshness and clarity and vitality—a Fanon for our present moment."



About the winner

Adam Shatz is the US editor of the London Review of Books and a contributor to the New York Times Magazine, the New York Review of Books, the New Yorker, and other publications. He is also a visiting professor at Bard College, and the host of the podcast "Myself with Others," produced by the pianist Richard Sears.

Raised in Massachusetts, Shatz studied history at Columbia University and has lived in New York City since 1990. He is the author of three books: Prophets Outcast: A Century of Dissident Jewish Writing about Zionism and Israel (Nation Books); Writers and Missionaries: Essays on the Radical Imagination (Verso); and The Rebel's Clinic: The Revolutionary Lives of Frantz Fanon (Farrar, Straus and Giroux).

About the Award

Founded in 2013, The American Library in Paris's \$5,000 literary prize is given to a title originally published in English that best realizes new and intellectually significant ideas about France, the French people, or encounters with French culture.



Dr. Carla Hayden, Librarian of Congress.

The 2024 shortlist

A screening committee chaired by John Burnham Schwartz, the award administrator, selected the shortlist from seventy-three submissions. In addition to the winning title, the finalists included:

The Revolutionary Temper: Paris, 1748–1789 Robert Darnton (W. W. Norton US / Allen Lane UK)

House of Lilies: The Dynasty That Made Medieval France by Justine Firnhaber-Baker (Allen Lane UK / Basic Books US)

This Strange Eventful History: A Novel by Claire Messud (W. W. Norton US / Fleet UK)

Monet: The Restless Vision by Jackie Wullschläger (Allen Lane)



(I-r) Michael Turner, Cultural Affairs Officer for the U.S. Embassy, France; Jill Le Grand, Chair of the Board of Trustees; winner Adam Shatz; Audrey Chapuis, Executive Director of the American Library in Paris; Dr. Carla Hayden, Librarian of Congress; John Burham Schwartz, Book Award Administrator.



The 2024 longlist

In addition to the five finalists, five further titles were named to the longlist:

Liberty Equality Fashion: The Women Who Styled the French Revolution by Anne Higonnet (W. W. Norton)

Toussaint Louverture: The Story of the Only Successful Slave Revolt in History by C.L.R. James and illustrated by Sakina Karimjee and Nic Watts (Verso)

Young Queens: Three Renaissance Women and the Price of Power by Leah Redmond Chang (Farrar, Straus and Giroux US / Bloomsbury UK)

Alfred Dreyfus: The Man at the Center of the Affair by Maurice Samuels (Yale University Press)

Paris is Not Dead: Surviving Hypergentrification in the City of Light by Cole Stangler (New Press US / Westbourne Press UK)





Book Award Patrons and supporters

The Library thanks the prize's generous Patrons: Judith Aubry, Mary Duncan, Peter and Jeanne Fellowes, Clydette and Charles de Groot, Suzanne Justen, and Usha Viswanathan.

The Book Award is supported by a grant from the **Florence Gould Foundation**, which will sustain the prize for many years to come.

Special thanks to the **U.S. Embassy, France** and Cultural Affairs Officer **Michael Turner** for hosting the evening. Thanks also to **Farrar, Straus and Giroux** for donating copies of the winning title.



Submitting to the 2025 Book Award

We are accepting nominations for the 2025 Award through 1 May 2025. For information on eligibility and the submissions process, visit our ${\bf website}$.



Attending the Book Award ceremony

The Book Award ceremony is the Library's most important donor appreciation event of the year. If you are not currently a donor and would like to learn more about supporting the Book Award or attending the 2025 ceremony, contact Morgan Wurzburger, Head of Development: giving@americanlibraryinparis.org

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