

INTRODUCING THE 2025–26 VISITING FELLOWS AND SCHOLARS OF NOTE

The Library's Visiting Fellowship and Scholars of Note program champions bold voices in literature to foster creative exchange at the heart of our international community.

Established in 2013, the Visiting Fellowship offers writers, researchers, and creators a month-long residency in Paris to pursue their independent creative projects. This year's outstanding cohort comprises Visiting Fellows **R. O. Kwon** and **Rasheed Newson**, and Scholars of Note **Lilly Dancyger**, **Dr. Eve L. Ewing**, and **Brenda Withers**. The Fellows and Scholars will also contribute to the Library's cultural programming with public events that engage with this year's central theme, *Ways of Seeing*, which explores the interplay between literature and the visual arts. The Visiting Fellowship and the Scholar of Note distinction are made possible by the generous support of [The de Groot Foundation](#).



The 2025–26 Visiting Fellows



R. O. KWON is the author of the nationally bestselling novel *Exhibit*, a *New York Times* Editors' Choice. Kwon's bestselling first novel, *The Incendiaries*, was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle John Leonard Award and the *Los Angeles Times* Art Seidenbaum Prize. Kwon coedited the bestselling *Kink*, a *New York Times* Notable Book. Her books have been translated into seven languages and named a best book of the year by over forty publications. Other writing has appeared in the *New York Times*, *New Yorker*, *Vanity Fair*, and elsewhere. While at the American Library in Paris, Kwon will work on her third novel, which is about a Korean American woman who plans a heist of historically significant art.



RASHEED NEWSON is the author of the national bestseller *My Government Means to Kill Me*. The novel was a Lambda Literary finalist for Gay Fiction and was named one of the "100 Notable Books of 2022" by the *New York Times*. His forthcoming novel, *There's Only One Sin in Hollywood*, is slated for publication by Flatiron in 2026. Rasheed is also a television drama writer, producer, and showrunner. Along with his screenplay writing partner, T.J. Brady, Newson co-developed and is an executive producer of *Bel-Air*. Newson will be conducting research for a novel about the experience of a gay, African-American, male runway model with a dark complexion, who becomes a brief international sensation during Paris Fashion Week in 1992.

The 2025–26 Scholars of Note

Created in 2022, the Scholar of Note distinction honors exceptional applicants to the Fellowship whose proposals stood out for their originality and merit.



LILLY DANCYGER is the author of *First Love: Essays on Friendship*, and *Negative Space*. Her work has been published by the New York Times, The Atlantic, Playboy, Rolling Stone, Guernica, Literary Hub, and more. Dancyger is the recipient of the Santa Fe Writers Project Literary Award, the Walter E. Dakin Fellowship from Sewanee, the Indiana Review Creative Nonfiction Prize, and an Artist Fellowship in nonfiction from the New York Foundation for the Arts. She lives in New York City and teaches at the Randolph College low-residency MFA program. At the Library, Dancyger will work on *Ballet Will Heal Me*, a book-length three-part essay about ballet as an artform and a physical practice, chronic pain, and the mind/body connection.



DR. EVE L. EWING is a writer, scholar, and cultural organizer from Chicago. She is the award-winning author of several books, including most recently *Original Sins: The (Mis)education of Black and Native Children and the Construction of American Racism*, an instant New York Times and USA Today bestseller. She works across genres, also penning works in theater, television, and comics. Ewing is an associate professor in the Department of Race, Diaspora, and Indigeneity at the University of Chicago. At the Library, Ewing will be working on a collection of essays about the joy and craft of bread and what it reveals about society, culture, history, and communities.



BRENDA WITHERS is a playwright, theater artist, and founding member of the Harbor Stage Company on Cape Cod. Her plays (*The Ding Dongs*, *Off Peak*, *Matt & Ben*) have been produced Off Broadway and across the United States and have earned her the Clauder Prize, an Edgerton Award, and the Modern Works Festival grand prize. She has enjoyed residencies with New Georges, the Camargo Foundation, and the Huntington Theatre. Withers is a lyricist with BMI's Advanced Musical Theatre Workshop, a graduate of Dartmouth College, and a beach person. At the Library, Withers will be working on the libretto for an original musical about the life of Julia Child.

About the American Library in Paris

The American Library in Paris is the largest English-language lending Library on the European continent, with a print collection of over 100,000 volumes. Since its establishment in 1920, the Library has been a meeting place for internationals and locals alike seeking to broaden their horizons and nurture their imagination. Every year, hundreds of events, lectures, and workshops bring together leaders in literature, arts, politics, and philosophy at the Library. Through its fellowships and social impact programs, the Library also supports emerging artists and young writers in their creative pursuits.

Press contact

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