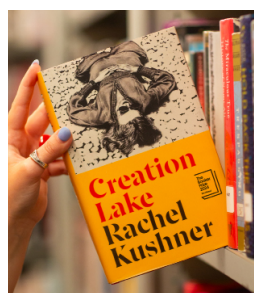


ANNOUNCING THE 2025 AMERICAN LIBRARY IN PARIS BOOK AWARD SHORTLIST

The American Library in Paris is pleased to unveil the shortlist for the 2025 Book Award, which celebrates outstanding works of literature that draw on France as a timeless source of inspiration.

Now in its thirteenth edition, the Book Award builds on the Library's century-long tradition of bringing France, its culture, and its history into dialogue with the wider world. After careful deliberation, we are thrilled to announce the four remarkable shortlisted titles.



Creation Lake
by Rachel Kushner
(Jonathan Cape, Scribner)
A seductive and cunning American woman infiltrates an anarchist collective in France in this propulsive page-turner.



Wild Thing: A Life of Paul Gauguin
by Sue Prideaux
(Norton)
An original and revealing portrait of the misunderstood French Post Impressionist artist.



A Complicated Passion: The Life and Work of Agnès Varda
by Carrie Rickey
(Norton)
The first major biography of the French New Wave filmmaker hailed as “one of the Gods of Cinema” by Martin Scorsese.



Gertrude Stein: An Afterlife
by Francesca Wade
(Faber & Faber, Scribner)
A biography as unconventional as the life it tells, this literary detective story delves into the creation of the Stein myth.

An advisory screening panel chaired by **John Burnham Schwartz** selected the shortlist from a longlist of eight titles, which was announced in June 2025. The winning title will be selected by an independent jury and announced at a ceremony on 7 November.

The Award Chair and the 2025 Jury

John Burnham Schwartz is the Book Award Chair and the author of six acclaimed novels, including *The Red Daughter*, *The Commoner*, and *Reservation Road*, which was adapted into a film. He also serves as the longtime Literary Director of the Sun Valley Writers' Conference and is an editor-at-large at Penguin Press.

The 2025 American Library Book Award Jury consists of:

- **Adam Shatz** (Jury Chair), 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 won the 2024 American Library in Paris Book Award for his book *The Rebel's Clinic: The Revolutionary Lives of Frantz Fanon*.
- **Ruth Reichl**, *New York Times* bestselling author of five memoirs, the novels *Delicious!* and *The Paris Novel*, and the cookbook *My Kitchen Year*. She was editor in chief of *Gourmet* magazine and served as restaurant critic for the *New York Times*, as well as food editor and restaurant critic for the *Los Angeles Times*.
- **Claire Messud**, author of six works of fiction, including *This Strange Eventful History* which was shortlisted for the 2024 American Library in Paris Book Award. She was the recipient of a Guggenheim and Radcliffe Fellowships and the Strauss Living Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

[More about the 2025 Book Award](#)
[Press kit and photo gallery](#)

About the American Library in Paris Book Award

The American Library in Paris Book Award celebrates works of literature, both fiction and nonfiction, that draw on France as a timeless source of inspiration. Created in 2013, the Book Award builds on the Library's century-long tradition of bringing France, its culture, and its history into dialogue with the wider world. It is open to books in all genres, originally published in English. To mark each new laureate, the Library commissions two copies of the winning title, hand-bound by Parisian artisans in a custom design found nowhere else. One copy is presented to the author, while its twin remains in the Library's Special Collection. The Book Award also carries a \$5,000 prize, which is supported by generous funding from the Florence Gould Foundation.

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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