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Contact: Caitlin Gallagher

(203) 432-0909

caitlin.gallagher@yale.edu



THE YEAR OF BLUE WATER, BY YANYI

***The 113th volume of the Yale Series of Younger Poets
explores the power of friendship
and search for self-knowledge***

“The Year of Blue Water reads as a record of time, a kind of daybook of observations in sentences so crystalline, spare, direct, and yet offhand, that it can be easy to miss, at first, the book’s complexity.”—Carl Phillips

“These poems offer the difficult gifts of difference through a clear and moving language, as an aperture widening insight into how we belong (or not), how we know or un-know, are seen or self-erase, all choices at the heart of becoming, naming one self.”—Erica Hunt

***Publishers Weekly Spring 2019 Announcements:
Poetry Top 10***

New Haven—Yale University Press is pleased to announce the publication of **THE YEAR OF BLUE WATER** by Yanyi, winner of the 2018 Yale Series of Younger Poets competition and judge Carl Phillips's eighth selection for the series (pub date: March 26, 2019).

Yanyi is the 113th recipient of the **Yale Series of Younger Poets** prize, America's oldest continuing poetry award, which has honored the innovative work of talented young literary artists for a century.

Yanyi's arresting and straightforward poems weave experiences of immigration as a Chinese-American, of racism, of mental wellness, and of gender from a queer and trans perspective. Between the contrast of high lyric and direct prose poems, Yanyi invites the reader to consider how to speak with multiple identities through trauma, transition, and ordinary life. Foregrounding the power of friendship, Yanyi's poems converse with friends and artists both living and dead, from Agnes Martin to Maggie Nelson to Robin Coste Lewis. His enlightening collection gives voice to the multifaceted humanity within all of us and inspires attention, clarity, and hope through art-making and community.

Originated in 1919 to showcase the works of exceptional American poets who have not published a book of poetry, the **Yale Series of Younger Poets** prize is the oldest annual literary award presented in the United States.

First serial excerpts with [Granta](#), [A Public Space](#), and [Tin House](#).

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:



Photo by Michelle Meier

Yanyi is a poet and critic who has received fellowships from the Asian American Writers' Workshop, Poets House, and the Millay Colony for the Arts. He formerly served as a curatorial assistant at The Poetry Project and is an associate editor at *Foundry*.

ABOUT THE SERIES JUDGE:

Carl Phillips is the award-winning author of eleven books of poetry, including *Speak Low*, which was a National Book Award finalist. He teaches at Washington University in St. Louis. This is his seventh selection as judge of the Yale Series of Younger Poets competition.

ABOUT THE YALE SERIES OF YOUNGER POETS, CELEBRATING ITS CENTENNIAL IN 2019

The **Yale Series of Younger Poets** is the longest-running poetry prize in America and is widely considered one of the most prestigious. Since its inception in 1919, the series has published the first books of poetry by such talents as Muriel Rukeyser, Adrienne Rich, John Ashbery, and Robert Hass. Every year, Yale University Press receives more than six hundred manuscripts from young poets competing for the honor. The 2004 prizewinner, *Crush* by Richard Siken, was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award in poetry.

Former judges of the series include W.S. Merwin, Archibald MacLeish, W. H. Auden, Stanley Kunitz, James Merrill, Louise Glück, and James Dickey. The annual contest is open to any resident of the United States who has not yet published a book of poetry. Yale University Press publishes the winning manuscript in the year following its selection. For the rules of the competition, visit youngerpoets.yupnet.org.

Winners of the Series will receive one of the five writing fellowships offered at The [James Merrill House](#) in Stonington, CT. The fellowship provides a furnished living space and daily access to James Merrill's apartment for a writer in search of a quiet setting to complete a project of literary or academic merit.

In 2019, Yale University Press will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Yale Series of Younger Poets with a host of exciting events around the country as well as an anthology gathering selected poems from the prize's long and hallowed history. For more information, please contact Caitlin Gallagher at caitlin.gallagher@yale.edu or (203) 432-0909.

Selected Events:

AWP, Portland, OR, 3/27
Commonplace, Portland, OR, 3/30
Poets House, New York, NY, 5/4