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**JUDGE RAE ARMANTROUT CHOOSES
JOHN LILES AS
2024 YALE YOUNGER POETS WINNER FOR
BEES, AND AFTER**

New Haven—Yale University Press is pleased to announce a winner in the 2023 Yale Series of Younger Poets competition. The judge, prize-winning and critically acclaimed poet Rae Armantrout, has chosen John Liles’s manuscript, *Bees, and after*. This is Armantrout’s fourth selection since being named judge of America’s longest-running poetry prize, succeeding Carl Phillips.

Armantrout says: “The poems in *Bees, and after* are dense, sonically gorgeous studies of various natural things and creatures, including light, bees, minerals, shell fish and crabs, insects, and the workings (and failures) of the heart. John Liles has studied these phenomena like a 19th century naturalist. His portraits are both scientifically grounded and emotionally engaged. This writing resonates with an awareness of the threats these creatures (such as bees and shellfish) face in our changing climate. The poems are tender; they could even be seen as elegies. The book is dedicated to a beloved grandmother who recently died. It seems likely that the poems about the (mammalian/human) heart arise from grief associated with her death. Some people feel that science inflected poems must be geeky and cold. This book helps prove them wrong.”

Of his recent win, John Liles says: “My gratitude is beyond measure. This is the dream—to be heard, to have my voice announced alongside a history of poets I so admire. In this moment, I am so thankful to everyone I've ever workshopped with, every friend, acquaintance, and educator who took the time to help me along the way. I came into writing as a way to reconcile having lived, living still. It's not easy being here; I have not always wanted to stay. As the work of other writers has brought a light into my life, so too do I hope my words will find someone who needs them.”

Yale University Press will publish Liles's book in April 2025. The manuscript is the 119th volume in the series. Its last volume, Cindy Juyoung Ok's *Ward Toward*, will be published by Yale University Press on March 5, 2024.

John Liles is a poet, science writer, and living mammal. His work is predicated on academic and archival research—a writing process that necessitates achieving an organic/animal understanding of the present surviving phenomenon. Aiming to establish a new interdisciplinary space between the arts and sciences, Liles holds to a self-established canon where the scientific must remain true. Liles is a graduate of the MFA program at New York University. His chapbook, *Following the dog down*, was the recipient of the Omnidawn Chapbook Prize. Further publications are listed on Liles' website, John-Liles.com. Currently, he resides in Fort Bragg, CA, where he writes and works as the head naturalist at the Pacific Environmental Education Center.

Awarded since 1919 by Yale University Press, the Yale Series of Younger Poets celebrates the most prominent new American poets by bringing the work of these artists to the attention of the larger public. Earlier winners of the prize include such giants as Adrienne Rich, John Ashbery, and Robert Hass. It is the longest-running poetry prize in the United States.

Yale University Press will also continue its partnership with The James Merrill House. Winners of the Series receive a writing fellowship 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.

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