

2019 SCIBA Book Award Winners Showcase the Best of SoCal Writers

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SAN GABRIEL, CA: The Southern California Independent Booksellers Association (SCIBA) has announced the winners for their 2019 Annual Book Awards. The Awards recognize the creative talent of Southern California writers, editors, illustrators, and So Cal subject matter.

The awards are chosen by Southern California booksellers and publishing professionals. The general awards are for adult fiction, adult nonfiction, and adult biography. The children's awards are for best Picture Book, best Middle Grade Fiction book, and best Young Adult Fiction book. There are two named awards—the Glenn Goldman Award for Art, Architecture, and Photography and the T. Jefferson Parker Mystery Award. Glenn Goldman was the founder of West Hollywood's Book Soup and the legacy award is given in honor of his personal interest in this category. T. Jefferson Parker is a bestselling mystery writer located in and focusing on Southern California.

The Glenn Goldman Award for Art, Architecture, and Photography was awarded to American artist, and Los Angeles local, Kenton Nelson for his book of paintings, *Water: California Idealism*. Kenton is known for his stylized, figurative, large-format paintings and murals and in *Water* he showcases a series of paintings exploring the idealistic California of his childhood.

The award for Nonfiction went to the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles for their book, *Wild LA: Explore the Amazing Nature in and Around Los Angeles*. With a number of different contributors, this book explores Los Angeles beyond the myth of it being a "concrete jungle." *Wild L.A.* describes not only the biodiversity native to the city, but also how to find it.

The Biography award went to a truly "L.A." kind of book, *The Lady from the Black Lagoon: Hollywood Monsters and the Lost Legacy of Milicent Patrick*, by Mallory O'Meara. The book tells the life of Milicent Patrick who designed the legendary creature from the Black Lagoon. As much a mystery, as information about Patrick's life was not readily available, as a biography of a woman working in male-dominated Hollywood.

In the adult fiction categories—Fiction and the T. Jefferson Parker Mystery Award—the winners were *My Year of Rest and Relaxation* by Ottessa Moshfegh and *The Feral Detective* by Jonathan Lethem. Lethem was a speaker at last year's Annual Conference where his book was introduced to area booksellers. In Lethem's first detective novel since *Motherless Brooklyn*, he explores the fringe societies living on the edge of the California desert. Moshfegh's darkly funny and highly acclaimed *My Year of Rest and Relaxation* explores one young woman's effort to sleep for a year through a combination of narcotics.

The three awards in children's' fiction went to some favorite So Cal authors. For best book in Middle Grade fiction, Cynthia Kadohata won for her book *A Place to Belong* about a Japanese-American family the emigrates back to Japan after being interred in the U.S. during WWII. Kadohata won the same award last year for her contemporary novel, *Checked*.

For best Picture Book, Isabel Quintero was given the award for *My Papi Has a Motorcycle*, a book about a young girl's love for her hard-working family and neighborhood. Quintero was nominated last year in the Biography field for her book, *Photographic: The Life of Graciela Iturbide*.

Finally, the award for Young Adult fiction went to Julie Berry for her book *Lovely War*. With an unusual narrator, Aphrodite, *Lovely War* looks into the lives of four people affected by World War I and World War II who find that love is a stronger force than war.

SCIBA's Fall Trade Show is an annual event that provides education programming and networking opportunities for booksellers, teachers, publishing representatives and other publishing professionals. This year the event was held at the Sheraton LA San Gabriel hotel in San Gabriel.

For complete list of Book Awards finalists and winners, visit: www.scibabooks.org

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About SCIBA: The Southern California Independent Booksellers Association (SCIBA) is a non-profit trade association of independent booksellers, book wholesalers, publishers and other industry professionals located primarily in Southern California and Southern Nevada. The mission of the SCIBA is to foster community among its core members, provide opportunities for peer interaction and learning, maintain the notion of Southern California as a viable and important part of the national bookselling landscape, and to advocate on the behalf of its core members.

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