



Library to Host Cambridge Women Authors to Discuss Cambridge as Inspiration

CAMBRIDGE, MA, October 23 – The Cambridge Public Library will welcome Cambridge-based authors Gish Jen, Claire Messud, Virginia Pye, and Laura Zigman for a conversation about Cambridge as inspiration in their writing. This event will take place in the Main Library lecture hall on Monday, November 6, from 7-8:30 p.m. This is an in-person event, and registration is required.

Gish Jen is the author of one previous book of stories, five novels, and two works of nonfiction. Her most recent book is *Thank You, Mr. Nixon*, a collection of stories spanning the fifty years since the opening of China to the West. Her stories have appeared in *The Best American Short Stories* four times, including *The Best American Short Stories of the Century*; she has also delivered the William E. Massey, Sr., Lectures in American Studies at Harvard University.

Claire Messud's novels include *The Emperor's Children*, a *New York Times* Book of the Year in 2006 and *The Burning Girl*, a finalist for the *LA Times* Book Award in Fiction. She is also the author of a book of novellas, *The Hunters*, and a memoir-in-essays, *Kant's Little Prussian Head & Other Reasons Why I Write*. Her work has been translated into over twenty languages. Her next novel, *This Strange Eventful History*, will be published by W.W. Norton in May 2024.

Laura Zigman is the author of six novels, including *Small World*, *Separation Anxiety* and *Animal Husbandry*, which was made into the movie *Someone Like You* starring Hugh Jackman and Ashley Judd. She has also ghostwritten/collaborated on several works of nonfiction, including Eddie Izzard's *New York Times* bestseller, *Believe Me*. She lives in Cambridge.

Virginia Pye is an award-winning author of novels and short stories. Her short story collection, *Shelf Life of Happiness*, won the 2019 Independent Publisher Gold Medal for Short Fiction, while two historical novels set in China—*Dreams of the Red Phoenix* and *River of Dust*—also received awards. Virginia's essays have appeared in *The New York Times*, *LitHub* and *The Rumpus*. Her most recent novel, *The Literary Undoing of Victoria Swann*, was published in October 2023.

This event is a collaboration between Porter Square Books, History Cambridge, and the Cambridge Public Library.

About the Cambridge Public Library:

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