

Excellence Awards

Fiction – Panel 2

Jacob Guajardo is a fiction writer whose story, “What Got Into Us” was featured in *The Best American Short Stories, 2018* (edited by Roxane Gay). His other stories have been published in numerous journals and anthologies, such as *Passages North*, *Midwestern Gothic*, *Wigleaf*, and *Hobart*. Guajardo is a recipient of a MacDowell Fellowship.

Tanya Rey is a queer Cuban-American writer who was born and raised in Miami, Florida. Her writing has appeared or is forthcoming in *Guernica*, *Granta*, *The Sun, Roads & Kingdoms*, *McSweeney’s Internet Tendency*, *The Georgia Review*, and *Catapult*, among others. She holds an MFA degree in fiction from New York University and has received fellowships from the Rona Jaffe Foundation, San Francisco Writers Grotto, MacDowell, Hedgebrook, UCross, Blue Mountain Center, I-Park, and others. An early draft of her novel in progress was selected as a semi-finalist for the James Jones First Novel Fellowship and an excerpt was shortlisted for the 2020 Disquiet Literary Prize. She has worked as managing editor for *One Story* and fiction editor for *Epiphany* and has taught creative writing at New York University and Writing Pad in San Francisco. She writes grants and copy for nonprofit organizations like 826 Valencia, the Will and Jada Smith Family Foundation, College Track, and Small Business Majority. She lives in Oakland, California.

Brendan Shay Basham is a fiction writer, poet, educator, and former chef. His work has appeared in such publications as the *Sante Fe Literary Review*, *Red Ink*, *Yellow Medicine Review*, *Juked*, *Cloudthroat*, and *Sheepshead Review*. He has been awarded several awards and fellowships from Writing by Writers, Tin House, the Truman Capote Trust, and he was a nominee for the 2018 Pushcart Prize. Recently, he was awarded the first Native American Literary Award from the UCross Foundation. Basham is the Writers in Schools Coordinator with the Southern Ward, a nonprofit that works with youth in Tennessee. He holds a M.F.A. in Creative Writing from the Institute of American Indian Arts, and is in the process of publishing his first novel.