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GRANTA

SPRING 2013

PRESS RELEASE

123

‘Quite simply, the most impressive literary magazine of its time.’ – DAILY TELEGRAPH

GRANTA AND BRITISH COUNCIL ANNOUNCE ‘BEST OF YOUNG BRITISH NOVELISTS’ PARTNERSHIP



Amis, Barker, Barnes, Hollinghurst, Mitchell,
Rushdie, Winterson . . .

Before they were household names, they were *Granta* Best of Young British Novelists. At a celebration to be held at the British Council, on the evening of 15 April 2013, *Granta* will announce its once-in-a-decade selection of the twenty best British novelists aged under forty. *Granta*’s first generation-defining list of writers was published in 1983 and set the bar for the following decades.

The April announcement marks the publication of *Granta* 123: The Best of Young British Novelists 4, which includes a new story from each writer on the 2013 list. *Granta* 123 will be available to purchase

from all good booksellers from 16 April in the UK and 23 April in the US.

Throughout 2013, the British Council and *Granta* are collaborating on an international showcase of contemporary British novelists, which features the twenty writers selected by *Granta*’s panel of judges. The first international events – including readings and conversation – will be announced on 15 April and will be taking place in more than ten countries including Russia, Qatar and India.

Books from each *Granta* Best Young Novelist on the 1983, 1993, 2003 and 2013 lists will be presented around the world in a bookcase designed by Raw-Edges Design Studio.

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‘A stunning contribution to contemporary literature.’ – NEWSWEEK

THE JUDGING PANEL

Beginning in April 2012, John Freeman, Ellah Allfrey, Romesh Gunsekera, Stuart Kelly, A.L. Kennedy, Sigrid Rausing and Gaby Wood read the works of over 150 authors, submitted by publishers, agents and the authors themselves. The judging process was completed on 7 January this year. On the selection of the jury, Freeman, *Granta*’s editor, said they were all ‘outsider minds that worked inside the system of publishing’.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT

In a radio exclusive, BBC Radio 4’s *Front Row* will announce the twenty Best of Young British Novelists around 7.30 p.m. on the evening of 15 April at the same time as the announcement at the British Council in London. In addition, BBC Radio 4’s *Book at Bedtime* will air readings of five of the stories from *Granta* 123 the week of 15 April.

NADAV KANDER PORTRAITS

Internationally renowned photographer Nadav Kander was commissioned to take portraits of each of *Granta*’s new Best of Young British Novelists. The result is a series of haunting portraits in a style that echoes Godfried Schalken’s candlelight paintings and the evocative portraiture of Gerhard Richter. The photographs are reproduced in *Granta* 123.

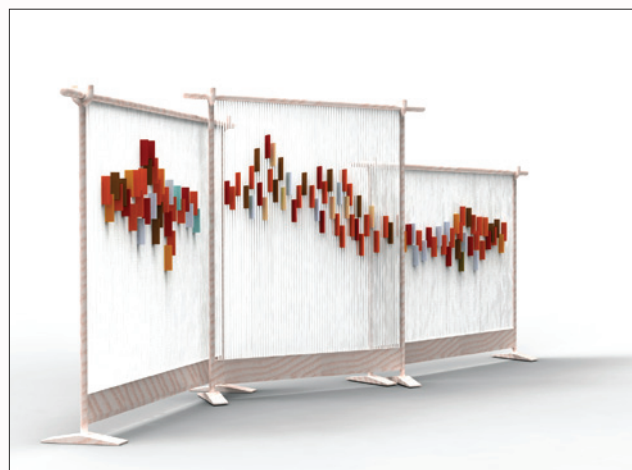
AUDIOBOOKS AND E-BOOKS

In the first partnership of its kind, Audible and *Granta* magazine are collaborating on the unabridged audiobook production of *Granta* 123: Best of Young British Novelists 4, which will be released via audible.co.uk and audible.com on 16 April. The wider aims of the partnership are to broaden the audience for literary fiction through a new, accessible format and to encourage writers to engage with spoken word from the start of their careers.

For the first time, *Granta* will be releasing the 1983, 1993 and 2003 editions of the Best of Young British

Novelists in electronic format. They will be available across all e-book formats in chronological order on 25 March, 1 April and 8 April.

THE ‘BEST OF YOUNG BRITISH NOVELISTS’ BOOKCASE



RAW-EDGES

British-based design studio Raw-Edges has been commissioned by the British Council to design a bespoke travelling bookcase to house one carefully selected work of fiction from each of *Granta*’s Best of Young British Novelists. The bookcase will also hold editions of *Granta* magazine.

The highly inventive design means the books themselves take centre stage in the installation. The interactive nature of the bookcase also allows visitors to change the display by repositioning the books. It invites visitors to delve into the stories and also consider the books’ physical qualities and design.

The bookcase will be on show during the Salone Internazionale del Mobile in Milan, where a series of talks will consider the book as a physical object. This commission represents an opportunity for audiences overseas to engage with British design and British contemporary literature.

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NOTES FOR EDITORS

GRANTA is the quarterly magazine of the best new writing from around the world. Relaunched in 1979 – with ten international editions of the magazine in countries including Brazil, Norway and China – *Granta* is committed to witnessing the world through stories.

Since 1983, **THE BEST OF YOUNG NOVELISTS SERIES** has introduced readers to scores of future literary lights long before they became household names, including Salman Rushdie, A.L. Kennedy, Jonathan Franzen and Nicole Krauss. Best of Young British Novelists lists were published in 1983, 1993 and 2003. Best of Young American Novelists were published in 1996 and 2007. In 2010, *Granta* 113: The Best of Young Spanish-Language Novelists was released, marking the first time in history that *Granta*'s Best of Young Novelists series looked outside the English-speaking world. *Granta* 121: *The Best of Young Brazilian Novelists* launched in 2012.

THE JUDGES FOR GRANTA'S BEST OF YOUNG BRITISH NOVELISTS 4

ELLAH ALLFREY, OBE is the deputy editor of *Granta* magazine. She sits on the board of Writers' Centre Norwich and is Deputy Chair of the Council of the Caine Prize.

JOHN FREEMAN is the editor of *Granta*. He is a former president of the National Book Critics Circle and has published two books, *The Tyranny of E-Mail* (Scribner, 2009) and *How to Read a Novelist* (FSG, 2013).

ROMESH GUNESKERA is the author of seven novels, including the Booker-shortlisted *Reef* (Granta Books, 1994) and *The Prisoner of Paradise* (Bloomsbury, 2013). A Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, he has judged many awards including the David Cohen Prize and the Caine Prize.

STUART KELLY is the literary editor of *Scotland on Sunday*, a freelance critic and awriter. He is the author of *The Book of Lost Books* (Viking, 2005) and *Scott-Land* (Polygon, 2011).

A.L. KENNEDY is the author of fourteen books, including novels, short fiction and non-fiction. She also writes drama, journalism and performs stand-up comedy. She was named a *Granta* Best of Young British Novelist in 1993 and again in 2003. A winner of the Costa Prize, she also is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and the Royal Society of Literature.

SIGRID RAUSING is the publisher of *Granta*. She is a writer and philanthropist. An anthropologist by training, her book *History, Memory, and Identity in Post-Soviet Estonia: The End of a Collective Farm* was published by OUP in 2004. Her forthcoming book is *Everything is Wonderful* (Grove Atlantic/Bonniers, 2014).

GABY WOOD is Head of Books at the Telegraph Media Group. Prior to that, she worked as an editor and staff feature writer at the *Observer*. She is the author of *Living Dolls* (Faber, 2003) and has previously judged the Man Booker Prize. Her journalism has appeared in the *London Review of Books*, the *Guardian*, *Vogue* and the *New York Times*.

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The BRITISH COUNCIL is the UK's leading cultural relations organisation. The LITERATURE department works with writers, publishers, producers, translators and other sector professionals across literature, publishing and education to develop innovative, high-quality literary programmes and collaborations that provide opportunities for cultural exchange and mutual understanding at festivals, book fairs, conferences, workshops and standalone events around the world.

The department has commissioned educational resources from Dr Katy Shaw, English Literature – Subject Leader at University of Brighton, based around the 2013 list. These resources will be made available to universities in the UK and overseas to support and refresh their teaching of contemporary British literature.

Critical essays on each of the twenty authors will go live on 15 April at literature.britishcouncil.org alongside interviews with former Best of Young British Novelists and an interactive events map, which allows visitors to explore forthcoming literary events in the worldwide series.

The ARCHITECTURE, DESIGN, FASHION department develops exhibitions, seminars, workshops, collaborative projects, educational initiatives and specialists' visits to the UK in conjunction with our colleagues and partners in over one hundred countries. It also provides information on British architecture, design and fashion across the globe.

RAW-EDGES DESIGN STUDIO consists of Yael Mer and Shay Alkalay. Mer's main focus includes turning two-dimensional sheet materials into curvaceous functional forms, whereas Alkalay is fascinated by how things move, function and react.

Since their graduation show at the Royal College of Art in 2006, they have received several highly respected awards. Their works have been exhibited internationally and can be found within the permanent collection of the MoMA in New York and other museums, and the studio has collaborated with Cappellini, Established & Sons, Kvadrat, Stella McCartney, Arco, Mutina and Lema. In addition, Mer and Alkalay produce unique and limited-edition designs and installations.

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