



NEW YORK CITY COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
CITY TECH
300 JAY STREET • NAMM HALL 322 • BROOKLYN, NY 11201-1909
OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Denise H. Sutton
718.260.5979
Fax 718.260.8553
dsutton@citytech.cuny.edu

Dale Tarnowieski
718.260.5695
Fax 718.260.8553
dtarnowieski@citytech.cuny.edu

City Tech's Annual Literary Arts Festival Features Award-winning Author Mary Gaitskill

Brooklyn, NY—March 14, 2016—Mary Gaitskill, best known for delivering powerful stories of dislocation, longing, and desire, will read from her work at City Tech's 35th Literary Arts Festival on March 24th at 5:30 p.m. in the Voorhees Theatre, 186 Jay Street, Downtown Brooklyn. City Tech students and faculty will also read original work at the event, and the City Tech Steppers will perform. Admission is free and the festival is open to all.

Gaitskill is the author of three novels: *The Mare* (2015), *Veronica* (2005), nominated for the 2005 National Book Award, National Critic's Circle Award, and the *LA Times* Book Award, and *Two Girls, Fat and Thin* (1991). She is the author of the story collections *Bad Behavior* and *Because They Wanted To*, nominated for the PEN/Faulkner award in 1998. *Bad Behavior*, now a classic, made critical waves when it was first published heralding Gaitskill's arrival on the literary scene and established her as one of the sharpest, erotically charged, and audaciously funny writing talents of contemporary literature. Her 2009 collection of stories is titled *Don't Cry*, about which *Bomb Magazine* declared: "Written with her distinctive, uncanny combination of bluntness and high lyricism, *Don't Cry* takes its place among artworks of great moral seriousness."

At City Tech's Literary Arts Festival, Gaitskill will read from her latest novel, *The Mare*, which explores contemporary class, race, and the complex politics of "giving" through the story of a young Dominican girl from Brooklyn who comes to live with a couple in upstate New York through the controversial Fresh Air Fund and how all of their lives are changed.

Gaitskill's stories and essays have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Harper's Magazine*, *Esquire*, *Best American Short Stories* and *The O. Henry Prize Stories*. In 2002, she was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship for fiction, and in 2010, she was awarded a Cullman Research Fellowship at the New York Public Library. She has taught at UC Berkeley, the University of Houston, New York University, Brown, and Syracuse University. She is currently the Visiting Writer-in-Residence at Claremont College in California.

"At this year's event, our students will contribute in many different capacities. Our Literary Arts Festival student volunteer team has been working on a video. They wrote the script and are doing all the filming. This video will open the show. Other students will read their winning writing entries in a variety of categories including fiction, poetry, personal essays, and graphic text awards," said Professor Jennifer Sears.

For the second year since the festival's inception, the organizers will host the Literary Arts Festival Literature Roundtable on Monday, March 21, at 11:30 a.m. in the Atrium Amphitheater. English Professors Renata Ferdinand and Ruth Garcia will lead a discussion of Mary Gaitskill's works for faculty and students. This event is also free and open to faculty and students.

For more information, contact the Literary Arts Festival organizers Professor Jennifer Sears at jeans@citytech.cuny.edu or Professor Rob Ostrom at Rostrom@citytech.cuny.edu.

Visit City Tech's Literary Arts Festival website at <https://openlab.citytech.cuny.edu/literaryartsfestival/> and professional development programs.

###

About City Tech (New York City College of Technology)

City Tech, of The City University of New York, is the largest four-year public college of technology in the Northeast and a national model for technological education. City Tech has an enrollment of more than 17,000 students in 25 baccalaureate and 27 associate degree programs and was recently ranked number one in the nation in producing the highest paid associate degree-earning graduates (<http://www.payscale.com/college-salary-report/2-year-colleges#fullText>). For more information, visit www.citytech.cuny.edu.

The College is committed to a policy of equal employment and equal access in its educational programs and activities and to non-discrimination in accordance with federal, state and city laws. For questions or concerns on non-discrimination, please contact the College's Chief Diversity Officer; for those regarding sex discrimination and sexual misconduct, please contact the College's Title IX Coordinator or the Office of Civil Rights of the United States.

Photo credit: Derek Shapton