



Advance Program Notes

An Evening with Terry Tempest Williams,
author, environmentalist, and activist
Monday, April 1, 2019, 7:30 PM

These Advance Program Notes are provided online for our patrons who like to read about performances ahead of time. Printed programs will be provided to patrons at the performances. Programs are subject to change.

An Evening with Terry Tempest Williams author, environmentalist, and activist

Conservationist, advocate for free speech, and author of *Refuge: An Unnatural History of Family and Place* and *Finding Beauty in a Broken World*

Moderated by Mary Denson Moore, senior instructor, Department of English

Presented in partnership with the Department of English

Biography



TERRY TEMPEST WILLIAMS

Terry Tempest Williams has been called “a citizen writer,” a writer who speaks and speaks out eloquently on behalf of an ethical stance toward life. A naturalist and fierce advocate for freedom of speech, she has consistently shown us how environmental issues are social issues that ultimately become matters of justice. “So here is my question,” she asks, “what might a different kind of power look like, feel like, and can power be redistributed equitably even beyond our own species?”

Williams, like her writing, cannot be categorized. She has testified before Congress on women’s health issues, been a

guest at the White House, has camped in the remote regions of Utah and Alaska wildernesses, and worked as “a barefoot artist” in Rwanda.

Known for her impassioned and lyrical prose, Williams is the author of the environmental literature classic *Refuge: An Unnatural History of Family and Place*; *An Unspoken Hunger: Stories from the Field*; *Desert Quartet*; *Leap*; *Red: Passion and Patience in the Desert*; *The Open Space of Democracy*; and *Finding Beauty in a Broken World*. Her book, *When Women Were Birds*, was published in spring 2012 by Sarah Crichton Books/Farrar, Straus, and Giroux. She is a columnist for the magazine *The Progressive*. She also wrote *The Story of My Heart by Richard Jeffries, as rediscovered by Brooke Williams and Terry Tempest Williams* (Torrey House Press), in which she and Brooke Williams expand upon the 1883 book by Jeffries. Her book, *The Hour of Land: A Personal Topography of America’s National Parks*, honored the centennial of the National Park Service, was a *New York Times* bestseller, and also won the Mountains and Plains Independent Booksellers Association 2016 Reading the West Book Award. Her next book will be *Erosion: Essays of Undoing* (fall 2019; Farrar, Straus, and Giroux).

In 2006 Williams received the Robert Marshall Award from the Wilderness Society, their highest honor given to an American citizen. She also received the Distinguished Achievement Award from the Western American Literature Association and the Wallace Stegner Award given by the Center for the American West. She is the recipient of a Lannan Literary Fellowship and a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship in creative nonfiction. In 2009 Terry Tempest Williams was featured in Ken Burns’ PBS series on the national parks. In 2014, on the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act, Williams received the Sierra Club’s John Muir Award honoring a distinguished record of leadership in American conservation. Williams also received the 2017 Audubon New York Award for Environmental Writing.

Williams has served as the Annie Clark Tanner fellow in the University of Utah’s Environmental Humanities Graduate Program, which she co-founded in 2004; and was the Provostial Scholar at Dartmouth College, serving as a Montgomery fellow twice. Williams was writer-in-residence at the Harvard Divinity School for the 2017-2018 academic year. Her writing has appeared in the *New Yorker*, the *New York Times*, *Orion Magazine*, and numerous anthologies worldwide as a crucial voice for ecological consciousness and social change. She and her husband, Brooke Williams, divide their time between Castle Valley, Utah and Jackson Hole, Wyoming.

Photo by Zoë Rodriguez

Engagement Events

Monday, April 1, 2019

RECEPTION WITH DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

Prior to her public reading, Terry Tempest Williams socialized with faculty, staff, and students from the Department of English at a private reception.

Monday, April 1, 2019, following the performance

MEET THE AUTHOR: TERRY TEMPEST WILLIAMS

Grand Lobby

After hearing her public talk, engage with the author at this informal book-signing. Williams' books will be available for purchase.

Tuesday, April 2, 2019

QUESTION-AND-ANSWER DISCUSSION

Virginia Tech students in the Department of English will engage with Williams in this informal discussion.

Special thanks to Erika Meitner and Mary Denson Moore

Go Beyond

How does Williams describe her multiple roles as an advocate for the environment? What strengths and challenges do those roles come with?

In the Galleries

SOVA FACULTY TRIENNIAL

Thursday, April 4-Saturday, May 4, 2019

*Ruth C. Horton Gallery, Miles C. Horton Jr. Gallery, and
Sherwood Payne Quillen '71 Reception Gallery*

This inaugural faculty triennial exhibition highlights new work by current faculty in Virginia Tech's School of Visual Arts (SOVA). Spanning a wide variety of media, subject matter, and scale, these works and site-specific installations explore and expand upon both traditional and cutting-edge approaches to artmaking, highlighting the creativity, ingenuity, and skill of SOVA faculty.



GALLERY HOURS

Monday-Friday, 10 AM-5:30 PM

Saturday, 10 AM-4 PM

To arrange a group tour or class visit, please contact Meggin Hicklin, exhibitions program manager, at megh79@vt.edu.

Michael Borowski

Through the Swift, Black Night, 2018

Archival pigment print

30 x 40 inches

Image courtesy of the artist