2020 Association of Writers and Writing Programs
Conference & Bookfair in San Antonio, TX

Event Title
A Reading by Robin Coste Lewis, Raquel Salas Rivera, and TC Tolbert, Sponsored by the Academy of American Poets

Event description
Poets Laureate Robin Coste Lewis (Los Angeles, CA), Raquel Salas Rivera (Philadelphia, PA), and TC Tolbert (Tucson, AZ) read from their work.

Event category
Poetry

Event organizer and moderator
Jennifer Benka received a BA from Marquette University and an MFA from The New School University. She is the author of Pinko (Hanging Loose Press, 2011), A Box of Longing With Fifty Drawers (Soft Skull Press, 2005), and the artist book The Preamble, designed by Mark Wagner (Booklyn, 2003). She is the President and executive director of the Academy of American Poets and lives in Brooklyn, New York.

Event participants and short bios:
Robin Coste Lewis was born in Compton, California. She received a PhD in Creative Writing and Literature from the University of Southern California, an MFA in Creative Writing from New York University, and an MTS from the Divinity School at Harvard University. She is the author of Voyage of the Sable Venus (Alfred A. Knopf, 2015), winner of the National Book Award in poetry. Lewis is the Writer-in-Residence at the University of Southern California.

Raquel Salas Rivera was born in Puerto Rico and grew up there and in the United States. They are the author of x/ex/exis (poemas para la nación) (poems for the nation), forthcoming from Bilingual Press/Editorial Bilingüe in January 2020 and winner of the 2018 Ambroggio Prize; while they sleep (under the bed is another country) (Birds, LLC, 2019); lo terciario/the tertiary (Timeless, Infinite Light, 2018), which was longlisted for the 2018 National Book Award in Poetry; tierra intermitente (Ediciones Alayubia, 2017); and Caneca de anhelos turbios (Editora Educación Emergente, 2011).

TC Tolbert received a BA in English from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and an MFA in creative writing from the University of Arizona. S/he is the author of
Gephyromania (Ahsahta Press, 2014) and four chapbooks of poetry, as well as coeditor, with Trace Peterson, of Troubling the Line: Trans and Genderqueer Poetry and Poetics (Nightboat Books, 2013).

About the Academy of American Poets
The Academy of American Poets is the nation’s leading champion of poets and poetry with members in all fifty states. Founded in 1934, the organization produces Poets.org, the world’s largest publicly funded website for poets and poetry; National Poetry Month; the popular Poem-a-Day series; American Poets magazine; Teach This Poem and other award-winning resources for K-12 educators; and an annual series of poetry readings and special events. In addition, the Academy of American Poets coordinates a national poetry coalition working together to promote the value poets bring to our culture and the important contribution poetry makes in the lives of people of all ages and backgrounds.