

BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BLANTON MUSEUM PARTNERS WITH WRITERS' LEAGUE OF TEXAS TO EXPLORE MYTHOLOGY AT AUGUST THIRD THURSDAY EVENT

"Writing About Myth" | Thursday, August 17 6:30pm

AUSTIN, Texas—August 1, 2017— The Blanton Museum of Art at The University of Texas at Austin is collaborating with the Writers' League of Texas to present "Writing About Myth," a panel in conjunction with the museum's current exhibition, *Epic Tales from Ancient India: Paintings from The San Diego Museum of Art*. The larger-than-life demons, gods, lovers and fighters depicted in the exhibition will provide a fitting backdrop for the discussion, which brings together writers and scholars who have explored and have been inspired by myths and legendary tales from many traditions.

Panelists include:

Sheila Black, author of two full-length poetry collections, *House of Bone* and *Love/Iraq*, and two chapbooks – *How to be a Maquiladora* and *Continental Drift* -- with painter Michele Marcoux. Her collection *Wen Kroy* received the 2011 Orphic Prize in Poetry and she is a 2012 Witter Bynner Fellow in Poetry, selected by U.S. Poet Laureate Philip Levine.

Richard R. Flores, Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs for the College of Liberal Arts and Professor of Anthropology and Mexican American Studies at The University of Texas at Austin, where he holds the C.B. Smith, Sr. Centennial Chair in U.S.-Mexico Relations. An accomplished essayist and editor, he is the author of *Remembering the Alamo: Memory, Modernity, and the Master Symbol* and *Los Pastores: History and Performance in the Mexican Shepherd's Play of South Texas*.

P.J. Hoover, author of the Forgotten Worlds Trilogy; the YA novel *Solstice*; *Tut: The Story of My Immortal Life*, a pick for the 2015 Texas Lone Star List; and its sequel, *Tut: My Epic Battle to Save the World*. Hoover's works are often inspired by classical mythology; the former electrical engineer cites *Mythology* by Edith Hamilton as an early influence on her subject matter and themes.

Dr. Helena Woodard, an Associate Professor of English and a faculty member of the John L. Warfield Center for African and African American Studies at The University of Texas at Austin. Her recent publications include "African-British Writers: Champions of Freedom," *Equiano: Enslavement, Resistance and Abolition*; "Troubling the Archives: Reconstituting the Slave Subject," *Revisiting Slave Narratives / Les avatars contemporains des recits d'esclaves*; and "Reading the Two Marys (Prince and Shelley) on the Textual Meeting Ground of Race, Gender, and Genre," *Tennessee Studies in Literature*.

The evening's discussion, moderated by Writers' League Program Director and author Michael Noll, will touch on many topics, including what writers and audiences can learn from the ways myths were

developed and revised for audiences, and why these stories continue to hold such fascination for modern readers and writers.

"Through the centuries, both writers and artists have returned to archetypal characters and themes time and again, giving them new twists and treatments in various genres and mediums," says **Becka Oliver**, Executive Director of the Writers' League. "Bringing together contemporary authors and ancient art is a wonderful way to explore the power and timelessness of these stories."

Adam Bennett, the Blanton's Manager of Public Programs, adds, "We love creating multidisciplinary programs for our community, and this combination of visual and literary arts fits so well with our *Epic India* exhibition. It's all about storytelling, so this partnership with the Writers' League is a natural fit."

Both the Blanton and the Writers' League host regular "Third Thursday" events each month, so this collaboration will also encourage engagement between the supporters of both institutions. This combined event coincides with the Writers' League's annual weeklong Summer Writing Workshop (held for the first time in Austin this year), which draws attendees from across the state and nation.

On Third Thursdays, the Blanton remains open until 9 pm. and admission is free, as it is every Thursday. Regular programming includes a "Beat the Rush" concert from 5:30 – 6:30 pm and special tours. Free admission every Thursday is made possible by The Moody Foundation.

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About the Blanton Museum of Art

Founded in 1963, the Blanton Museum of Art is one of the foremost university art museums in the country and holds the largest public collection in Central Texas. Recognized for its modern and contemporary American and Latin American art, Italian Renaissance and Baroque paintings, and encyclopedic collection of prints and drawings, the Blanton offers thought-provoking, visually arresting, and personally moving encounters with art. The museum is located at the intersection of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Congress Avenue and is open Tuesday through Friday from 10–5, Saturday from 11–5, and Sunday from 1–5. Thursdays are free admission days and every third Thursday the museum is open until 9. Admission Prices: Adults \$9, Kids 12 and under FREE, Seniors (65+) \$7, Youth/College Students (13–21) \$5. Admission is free to members and all current UT ID-holders. For more information call (512) 471-7324 or visit www.blantonmuseum.org.

About the Writers' League of Texas

With more than 1,300 members statewide and growing, the Writers' League of Texas is a vibrant community that serves to educate and uplift Texas writers, whatever stage they may be at in their writing careers. A nonprofit organization, the WLT offers valuable service to communities across the state with free programming in libraries and local schools.

To learn more call (512) 499-8914 or visit www.writersleague.org.