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VERMONT BOOK AWARD WINNERS FOR 2023 ANNOUNCED

Montpelier, VT – Vermont Humanities announced the winners of the Vermont Book Awards for outstanding literature in 2023 last weekend at a celebration in Montpelier.

The winners in each of their respective categories were Mary Ruefle for *The Book* (Creative Nonfiction), Sandra Simonds for *Assia* (Fiction), Vievee Francis for *The Shared World* (Poetry), and Dan Nott for *Hidden Systems* (Children's Literature).

The keynote speaker was Eva McKend, CNN national political correspondent, who launched the evening with a call to remember our shared humanity. "In this tenuous time for our nation and our world, good writing reminds us of our humanity. We learn about where we've come from, where we're going, we imagine unknown futures and reflect on the past," said McKend.

The 2023 physical award statues were created by Vermont artist Trevor Corp. These multimedia sculptures explore the dynamic intersection of fine art, found art, functional art, and craft. Corp works and makes art at the Vermont Studio Center in Johnson. The winners each received a cash prize of $1,000 as well as the award created by Corp.

"This night was all about coming together in community to celebrate and honor the literary excellence that abounds in Vermont, and it's because of all of you that this event and award is so special," said Vermont Humanities Executive Director Christopher Kaufman Ilstrup.

The Vermont Book Award is an annual prize for outstanding literature in Vermont, run by the Vermont Department of Libraries, Vermont Humanities, and Vermont College of Fine Arts.

About Vermont Humanities

A statewide nonprofit organization founded in 1974, Vermont Humanities uses the humanities to connect with people across Vermont to create just, vibrant, and resilient communities and to inspire a lifelong love of learning. Learn more at **www.vermonthumanities.org**