

# Tyehimba Jess

Pulitzer-Prize winning poet and author

Litowitz MFA+MA Creative Writing Speaker Series

Thursday, January 31

6:00pm

The Block  
Museum  
of Art  
40 Arts Circle Dr.



Tyehimba Jess is the author of two books of poetry, *Leadbelly* and *Olio*. *Olio* won the 2017 Pulitzer Prize, the Anisfield-Wolf Book Award, The Midland Society Author's Award in Poetry, and received an Outstanding Contribution to Publishing Citation from the Black Caucus of the American Library Association. It was also nominated for the National Book Critics Circle Award, the PEN Jean Stein Book Award, and the Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award. *Leadbelly* was a winner of the 2004 National Poetry Series. The *Library Journal* and *Black Issues Book Review* both named it one of the "Best Poetry Books of 2005."

Jess, a Cave Canem and NYU Alumni, received a 2004 Literature Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts, and was a 2004–2005 Winter Fellow at the Provincetown Fine Arts Work Center. Jess is also a veteran of the 2000 and 2001 Green Mill Poetry Slam Team, and won a 2000–2001 Illinois Arts Council Fellowship in Poetry, the 2001 Chicago Sun-Times Poetry Award, and a 2006 Whiting Fellowship. He presented his poetry at the 2011 TedX Nashville Conference and won a 2016 Lannan Literary Award in Poetry. He received a Guggenheim fellowship in 2018. Jess is a Professor of English at College of Staten Island.

Jess' fiction and poetry have appeared in many journals, as well as anthologies such as *Angles of Ascent: A Norton Anthology of Contemporary African American Poetry*, *Beyond The Frontier: African American Poetry for the Twenty-First Century*, *Role Call: A Generational Anthology of Social and Political Black Literature and Art*, *Bum Rush the Page: A Def Poetry Jam*, *Power Lines: Ten Years of Poetry from Chicago's Guild Complex*, and *Slam: The Art of Performance Poetry*.

Co-sponsors: The Block Museum of Art, the Graduate School, The Department of African American Studies, and the Program in American Studies.