

Jesmyn Ward

Professor at Tulane University

New Orleans, LA, US

Critically acclaimed author Jesmyn Ward is a two-time National Book Award Winner and professor of creative writing.

Biography

Jesmyn Ward, a two-time National Book Award winner who has been hailed as the heir to William Faulkner and one of TIME magazine's Most Influential People of 2018, is a professor of creative writing in the Tulane Department of English. Ward, who received the 2017 MacArthur Fellows "Genius Grant" from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, is the author of five critically acclaimed works including "Sing, Unburied, Sing," which won the 2017 National Book Award and "Salvage the Bones," the 2011 National Book Award winner. In 2018, Ward delivered the keynote address for Tulane University's Commencement, received the Anisfield-Wolf Book Award in the fiction category and her novel, "Sing, Unburied, Sing," was selected for One Book, One Philadelphia as the official reading selection for the city in 2019. A native of DeLisle, Mississippi, Ward was the first in her family to attend college, earning a Bachelor of Arts in English and a Master of Arts in media studies and communication from Stanford University. In 2005, she received a Master of Fine Arts in creative writing from the University of Michigan. That same year she was stranded in a farm field with her family after the floodwaters of Hurricane Katrina destroyed their DeLisle home. This experience informed Ward's first novel "Where the Line Bleeds." Following her first novel, Ward published four more works including "Men We Reaped" (2013) and "The Fire This Time" (2016). Collectively the works have earned her a place as one of the nation's most powerful and eloquent literary voices. Ward joined Tulane's faculty as an associate professor of English in 2014 and received the Strauss Living Award for literary excellence in 2016 from the Academy of Arts and Letters that same year.

Areas of Expertise

Communication, English, Creative Writing, Media Studies

Education

Stanford University

B.A.

Stanford University

M.A.

University of Michigan

M.F.A.

Accomplishments

Strauss Living Award for literary excellence
2016

National Book Award Winner
2017 (Sing, Unburied, Sing); 2011 (Salvage the Bones)

MacArthur Fellows ?Genius Grant?
2017

TIME magazine?s Most Influential People
2018

Tulane University Commencement Keynote Speaker
2018

Anisfield-Wolf Book Award for Fiction
2018 (Sing, Unburied, Sing)

One Book, One Philadelphia
2019 (Sing, Unburied, Sing) (Official reading selection of the city)

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