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For Immediate Release

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**Lewis Center for the Arts' Program in Creative Writing presents
A Reading with Yiyun Li and Erika L. Sánchez**

Award-winning writers open 2017-18 Althea Ward Clark W'21 Reading Series at Princeton



Photo caption 1: 2017-19 Princeton Arts Fellow Erika L. Sánchez

Photo credit 1: Photo by Robyn Lindeman

Photo caption 2: New Princeton faculty member and award-winning fiction writer Yiyun Li

Photo credit 2: Photo by Roger Turesson

Who: Reading by award-winning writers Yiyun Li and Erika L. Sánchez

What: First reading in the 2017-18 Althea Ward Clark W'21 Reading Series

When: Wednesday, September 20, at 4:30 p.m.

Where: Berlind Theatre at McCarter Theatre Center, 91 University Place, Princeton

Free and open to the public

(Princeton, N.J.) On Wednesday, September 20, award-winning fiction writer and memoirist, and new Princeton faculty member Yiyun Li, and poet, novelist, and 2017-19 Princeton Arts Fellow Erika L. Sánchez will read from their work as part of the Althea Ward Clark W'21 Reading Series of the Program in Creative Writing at the Lewis Center for the Arts. The reading, beginning at 4:30 p.m. in the Berlind Theatre at McCarter Theatre Center, is free and open to the public.

Yiyun Li's most recent book is a memoir, *Dear Friend, from My Life I Write to You in Your Life*, published in February 2017. She is the recipient of *The Sunday Times*/EFG Short Story Award, the Benjamin H. Danks Award from The American Academy of Arts and Letters, and a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship, among many other literary awards. She was named by *The New Yorker* as one of the "20 under 40" fiction writers to watch. Her work also has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *A Public Space*, *Granta*, *The Best Short Stories*, and *The O. Henry Prize Stories*, among others. Li grew up in Beijing and came to the United States in 1996 to pursue a science career in immunology before she became a writer. She most recently taught fiction at the University of California, Davis, where she received the Chancellor's Fellowship, one of the highest and most prestigious faculty honors at the University. This fall she joined Princeton's faculty as a professor in the Program in Creative Writing.

Li will be introduced by Angela Flournoy, author and faculty member in the Program in Creative Writing.

Erika L. Sánchez is the daughter of Mexican immigrants. A poet, essayist, and fiction writer, she is the author of a young adult novel, *I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter* (Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2017), which was recently long-listed for the National Book Award in Young People's Literature, and the poetry collection, *Lessons on Expulsion* (Graywolf, 2017). Her poetry has been featured on "Latino USA" on NPR, and has appeared in *Boston Review*, *Guernica*, *Paris Review*, *Poetry*, and other publications, and her nonfiction has been published in *Al Jazeera*, *Cosmopolitan*, *ESPN.com*, *The Guardian*, on NBC News, *Rolling Stone*,

Salon, and elsewhere. Her honors include a CantoMundo Fellowship, Bread Loaf Scholarship, and the 2013 Discovery/*Boston Review* Poetry Prize. In 2015, Sanchez was awarded a Ruth Lilly and Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Poetry Fellowship from the Poetry Foundation. As a 2017-19 Princeton Arts Fellow in the Lewis Center for the Arts, Sánchez is in residence at the University to teach while continuing to pursue her work.

Sánchez will be introduced by Michael Dickman, poet and faculty member in the Program in Creative Writing.

The Lewis Center's Program in Creative Writing annually presents the Althea Ward Clark W'21 Reading Series, which provides an opportunity for students, as well as all in the greater Princeton region, to hear and meet the best contemporary writers. All readings are free and open to the public. Other readings scheduled in the 2017-2018 series include:

- Rachel Cusk and Nathaniel Mackey, Princeton Class of 1969, on Wednesday, October 11, 4:30 p.m., at the Berlind Theatre at McCarter Theatre Center
- Hilton Als and Hoa Nguyen on Wednesday, November 15, 7:30 p.m. at the Lewis Arts complex
- Alaa Al Aswany and Linda Gregerson on Wednesday, February 7, 7:30 p.m., at the Lewis Arts complex
- Osama Alomar and Luc Sante on Wednesday, March 7, 7:30 p.m., at the Lewis Arts complex
- Jane Hirshfield, Princeton Class of 1973, and Walter Mosley, on Wednesday, April 18, 4:30 p.m., at the Berlind Theatre at McCarter Theatre Center

For more information on the Program in Creative Writing and the more than 100 public events offered each year by the Lewis Center for the Arts, most of them free, visit arts.princeton.edu.

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