



PRESS CONTACT: Joe Engleman

(312) 661-0317, [joe@chicagohumanities.org](mailto:joe@chicagohumanities.org)

## Chicago Humanities Festival announces full roster for first Spring Festival: *Style*

More than 20 events April 28–May 1

Featuring Arianna Huffington, Alicia Garza, Mary-Louise Parker, Iris Apfel, Sally Mann, Karl Ove Knausgaard, George Wendt, Maria Pinto, and Rachel Roy

This spring, the Chicago Humanities Festival is telling the world that style possesses more power than the ability to turn heads. Style is not merely what’s hot and what’s not. Style is the lens which designers, photographers, and artists use to project their vision of and onto the world. Style governs where writers break a line, how activists present and represent a movement, how we dance to the records, and which we spin over and over and over.

“Style is a space where race, gender, art, and politics intersect,” says Alison Cuddy, Associate Artistic Director of the Chicago Humanities Festival, “and the line-up we’ve curated for the city this spring will go a long way towards highlighting that style matters.”

The full line-up for *Style*, the first Spring festival from the Chicago Humanities Festival, is available at [chicagohumanities.org/style](http://chicagohumanities.org/style).

*Style* presenters range from **Alicia Garza**, one of the co-founders of #BlackLivesMatter to noted fashion icon **Iris Apfel**, and a number of FLOTUS fashion designers including **Isabel and Ruben Toledo**, **Maria Pinto**, and **Rachel Roy**. Pulitzer Prize winner **Robin Givhan** and inclusive retail and disability advocate **Liz Jackson** will also be presenting.

Sunday, May 1, will feature three National Book Award winners including **Robin Coste Lewis**, winner of the 2015 poetry prize for her collection *Voyage of the Sable Venus*, **James McBride**, winner of the 2014 prize in fiction, now with a new biography of James Brown, *Kill ‘em and Leave*, and **Andrew Solomon**, winner of the 2001 prize for nonfiction. His latest book is *Far and Away*.

Like any CHF event, *Style* will leave the audience grappling with big questions particularly about the way in which style acts as a change agent. “What was it about James Brown’s music and dance moves that changed music forever?” Cuddy asks. “Can an emoji really convey more than words?”

“We’re excited to bring the Chicago Humanities Festival’s unique thematic approach and breadth of programming to a new Spring Festival,” said Phillip Bahar, Executive Director.

The *Style* festival also features an event for young professionals following Garza's event, at *Refuge* in the South Loop, which will continue the conversation launched by Garza's talk. There will also be a number of matinees for young adults featuring the editors of *The Breakbeat Poets*, Chicagoans Kevin Coval and Nate Marshall, and *Titus*, a play about a young boy literally standing on the ledge.

**Tickets go on sale to members Tuesday, March 1 and to the general public on Thursday, March 3.** Tickets can be purchased at [chicagohumanities.org](http://chicagohumanities.org) or by calling the CHF Box Office at (312) 493-9509, Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. To learn more about a CHF membership, visit [supportCHF.org](http://supportCHF.org).

The inaugural year's venues are as chic as its presenters. From the elegant Chicago Athletic Association to the newly re-opened Studebaker Theatre, attendees can expect their modish environs to add the perfect touch to the Festival's sure-to-be engaging programs. A free Chicago Humanities Festival app can be downloaded via [Google Play](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.chicagohumanities) or the [iTunes Store](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/chicago-humanities-festival/id1011111111).

## ***Style Highlights***

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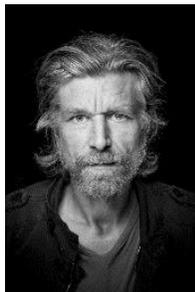
### **Thursday, April 28**



**Arianna Huffington** | Francis W. Parker School

**Arianna Huffington** is co-founder and editor-in-chief of the Huffington Post. Having changed the face of publishing, she has branched out to become a cultural critic and has been an active voice in American politics. Her latest book, *The Sleep Revolution*, is her first since the *New York Times* best seller, *Thrive*.

### **Friday, April 29**



**Karl Ove Knausgaard** | Art Institute of Chicago

**Karl Ove Knausgaard** is a literary sensation and the acclaimed author of a six-volume autobiographical novel, *My Struggle*, which combines an epic scope with intimate details of daily life. His essays have included a journey across North America and an ode to brain surgery, both of which appeared in the *New York Times Magazine*. He won the Norwegian Critics Prize for Literature with his debut novel, *Out of the World*.

### **Saturday, April 30**



**Alicia Garza** | Chicago Athletic Association

**Alicia Garza**, co-creator of the Black Lives Matter movement and Special Projects Director for the National Domestic Workers Alliance, represents a new school of activism focused on combating state-sanctioned anti-Black violence. With our national attention focused more clearly on issues of race, inequality, and violence over the past few years, Garza's movement "centers those that have been marginalized in Black liberation movements."



**Iris Apfel | Chicago Athletic Association**

Iris Apfel, the “rare bird of fashion,” is one of the best known style icons in the world. The 94-year-old, an innovator of the “more is more” aesthetic, has designed White House interiors for various Presidents and has been the subject of a documentary by legendary filmmaker Albert Maysles. As Apfel famously said, style has nothing to do with fashion and everything to do with “attitude, attitude, attitude.”



**Mary-Louise Parker | Chicago Fine Arts Building, Studebaker Theater**

**Mary-Louise Parker**, a Golden Globe and Emmy Award Winning actress (*Fried Green Tomatoes*, *Angels in America*, *The West Wing*, *Weeds*), sits down to discuss her art and life. Her literary debut and unique memoir *Dear Mr. You* is written with grace and wit. A series of letters addressed to the men in her life—from the grandfather she never met to the doctor who saved her life—is both poignant and uproariously funny.



**Elizabeth Cline | Art Institute of Chicago**

Elizabeth Cline began the research for her first book, *Overdressed: The Shockingly High Cost of Cheap Fashion*, in her own closet. Convinced that the seeming affordability of discount retail was only one part of the story, Cline discovered the horrendous labor conditions and havoc wreaked on local economies by fast fashion manufacturers. While consumers may only see \$5 and \$10 at the cash register, Cline has revealed that the true costs of chic, cheap fashion are much higher.



**Politics and Clothing: The Hijab | Art Institute of Chicago**

When Italian designers Dolce & Gabbana announced its first hijab collection, it wasn't just the fashion world that took notice. In many ways, hijab is becoming part of mainstream Western culture, worn by characters on a television series and even a new Barbie doll. Still the wearing of hijab continues to spark other responses, from attacks on women in Paris to calls from some Muslim women to end what they view as an oppressive form of dress. CHF convenes a panel to discuss the complex and contradictory responses to hijab including **Asra Nomani**, journalist and author of *Standing Alone* and **Hoda Katebi**, activist and author of *Tehran Street Style*.

## Sunday, May 1



**Andrew Solomon** | Art Institute of Chicago

**Andrew Solomon** has written extensively on psychology, politics, and the arts. He joins us to discuss places experiencing dramatic transitions—from Moscow and the fall of the U.S.S.R. to Afghanistan and the rise of the Taliban. He is the author of the National Book Critics Circle Award winner for *Far from the Tree: Parents, Children, and the Search for Identity*, and *The Noonday Demon: An Atlas of Depression*, which won the 2001 National Book Award and was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. He is the president of the PEN American Center and a regular contributor to *The New Yorker*, NPR, and *The New York Times Magazine*.



**Sally Mann** | Art Institute of Chicago

**Sally Mann** is one of the most prolific photographers of our time, best known for intimate, personal photographs of her children and her mysterious, even hallucinatory landscapes. Her photographs can be found in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Art Institute of Chicago, and the Whitney Museum of American Art to name a few. Her memoir, *Hold Still*, was a finalist for the National Book Award and took home the Carnegie Medal.

**The Breakbeat Poets** | Chicago Fine Arts Building, Studebaker Theater

**Kevin Coval and Nate Marshall** co-edited this groundbreaking poetry collection, *The Breakbeat Poets*, the first “by and for the Hip-Hop generation.” From Hebru Brantley’s cover art to selections from Marshall, Jamila Woods, Kristiana Rae Colón, and many more, it’s clear this national compendium owes a great deal to Chicago and its style. Coval, the founder of Louder Than a Bomb poetry slam and the Artistic Director of Young Chicago Authors, and Marshall, the author of the acclaimed collection, *Wild Hundreds*, will be on hand to close out the inaugural Style festival.

