

# literaryventuresfund

investing in literature  
one book at a time

providing a foundation  
for writers around the globe

[www.literaryventuresfund.org](http://www.literaryventuresfund.org)



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## **Literary Ventures Fund Announces First Portfolio of Literary Investments**

BOSTON/NEW YORK (February 14, 2006) – The Literary Ventures Fund, a first of its kind, venture-based non-profit foundation, today announced its first round of investments. The fund supports works of fiction, non-fiction and poetry. The inaugural portfolio features established and acclaimed authors, fresh voices, and foreign writers in translation. This is the first of several portfolio announcements that LVF will make this year.

“We’re thrilled to support these authors and their publishers and are especially excited about the diversity of voices in this first round,” said Jim Bildner, founder and Chairman of the Literary Ventures Fund. “We’re equally excited by the enthusiastic response we have received from all segments of the publishing industry. Including this first round and the next anticipated set of investments, we expect that our portfolio will include projects from publishers and agencies large and small as well as creative writing programs. These initial investments further bolster our belief that we can catalyze the process of getting works of literature into readers’ hands in ways that haven’t been used before. Even more important is the sense we have that there are unlimited opportunities for us to continue this effort and our belief that the works we have invested in will allow us to continue well in to the future.”

The selections were made by Literary Ventures Fund Chairman Jim Bildner, Executive Director Jeffrey Lependorf and Editorial Director Ande Zellman. LVF’s Board of Directors and Advisory Board, comprised of some of the most prestigious authors and members of the publishing industry, provided additional consultation

The Literary Ventures Fund investments are:

***Gate of the Sun*, by Elias Khoury  
Translated from the Arabic by Humphrey Davis  
Archipelago Books, February, 2006**

Hailed as a "masterwork" by The New York Times Book Review, *Gate of the Sun*, by one of the Arabic's world's most highly-regarded authors, offers exquisite prose and poetic insight into the modern Palestinian experience.

***Firmin, Adventures of a Metropolitan Lowlife, by Sam Savage*  
Coffee House Press, April, 2006**

Chosen as a Barnes & Noble "Discover New Writers" selection, *Firmin* introduces readers to a highly literate but down-and-out rat who leads the way on an enchanting and darkly comic journey as he discovers the transformative power of literature.

**Translation Catalog  
Copper Canyon Press**

This special catalogue will feature 39 books representing more than 20 languages including Nobel laureates, Pulitzer Prize winners, National Book Award Winners, and winners of young writers' awards, from America's premiere poetry press.

***The First Hurt, Stories by Rachel Sherman*  
Open City Books, May 2006**

This bold and brilliantly written debut story collection heralds the arrival of a fresh and remarkably assured new voice. Rachel Sherman illuminates the wonders—and horrors—of a young woman's life from girl to teenager to adult, with wisdom, humor and clever insight.

***American Genius: A Comedy, by Lynne Tillman*  
Soft Skull Press, October, 2006**

Acclaimed author Lynne Tillman expands the horizons of the national novel and of the female protagonist with this mesmerizing and meditative literary high-wire act, where wry insights and observational powers keep us grounded—and off-balance—at the same time.

Founded in May 2005, the Literary Ventures Fund serves as a partner-in-risk providing supplementary support to authors and their works. Through its philanthropic venture capital investment model, LVF accomplishes three goals: accelerating the process of getting new works of literature into the hands of readers; opening up new channels for these works to get published and marketed; and developing a self-supporting philanthropic entity that does not draw from an already too small circle of philanthropic resources supporting literary organizations today.

LVF actively forms partnerships with publishers participating in its portfolio to increase their marketing reach, improve their business models, or form strategic collaborations with other parts of the publishing ecosystem. By doing so it serves its mission to challenge the current marketplace for literature. In addition, through the LVF Writers Fund, authors may receive support to complete promising literary works and, upon their completion, LVF can help bring them to the publishers most likely to get their books into the hands of readers.

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## **About the Literary Ventures Fund**

Founded in 2005 as a not-for-profit private foundation, the Literary Ventures Fund seeks to challenge the status quo of literary publishing by creating sustainable publishing models as well as an extended network of integrated resources that support these models and the role of literature in today's world.

The Literary Ventures Fund was created in the belief that literature has a profound impact on our lives. Great books transport readers, illuminate their values, and bring meaning and context to their lives; they have the power to inspire, console, and provoke; they enlighten us and affect us long after we've put a book down. But literature is at risk, as are the economic and support systems that traditionally have connected great writers to readers. In many cases these systems no longer exist, disrupted in part by consolidation and the intrinsic pressures on the remaining large publishing houses to give preference to books that sell to the mass market. LVF is built on the premise that, given a level playing field, great works of literature can thrive in the marketplace.

The Literary Ventures Fund focuses on a single precept: sustainability. While LVF first and foremost invests in works of fiction, non-fiction and poetry that are exceptionally well written, make an impact, and resonate with the reader, we balance that with the conviction that the projects we fund need to be economically viable and likely to remain in print. LVF seek to leverage existing resources while acting as a catalyst in creating new ones. Rather than function simply as a funder or grant-maker, we work to become an active partner in our invested projects while, at the same time, respecting what our publishing partners do best. Our financial and technical support is need-blind and entirely merit-based. We invest in literature—one book at a time.