

Intern Journal: Ilya Kaminsky

By: Kendall Clarke

“The deaf don’t believe in silence. Silence is the invention of the hearing.”

These are the concluding words to Ilya Kaminsky’s *Deaf Republic*, a poetry collection set in an unknown territory during a time of great political unrest. The narrative opens with the tragic scene of a soldier shooting and killing a young deaf boy in the town square, the gunshot rendering the entire town deaf; the story then diverges over the course of two “acts,” showcasing the private lives of the townspeople converging with the public acts of political dissent. Combining play, poetry, and sign language into one masterful collection, Kaminsky interrogates what it means to be silent in the face of atrocity.

Ilya Kaminsky is one of the two 2019 National Book Award Finalists visiting for this year’s Winter with the Writer’s season. His other accolades include a Whiting Writers’ Award, the Milton Center’s Award for Excellence in Writing, the Florence Kahn Memorial Award, *Poetry* magazine’s Levinson Prize as well as their Ruth Lilly Fellowship, the Philips Exeter Academy’s George Bennett Fellowship, a Lannan Foundation fellowship, and an Academy of American Poets fellowship. Kaminsky has also been named a finalist for The Forward Prize for Best Collection for his work with *Deaf Republic*.

We invite the Rollins College and Winter Park community to come experience the brilliance of this critically acclaimed poet during his Master Class on Thursday, February 27, 2020 at 4pm in Suntrust Auditorium. At 7:30pm that same night, Kaminsky will be giving a joint reading with fellow National Book Award Finalist Kali Fajardo-Anstine in Bush Auditorium. The reading will be followed by a short Q&A session as well as an opportunity for guests to have their books signed by Ilya Kaminsky himself!