



# Dystopian Visions

Conversations about Science Fiction and Fantasy at the Bay Area Book Festival

Saturday, April 28

10:30 - 11:45 **The Art of Science Fiction: Interview with Sylvie Denis, France's Queen of Sci-Fi**

Sylvie Denis, Marie Brennan

For this special event, one of France's leading science fiction writers, Sylvie Denis, travels to the Bay Area Book Festival to discuss her work and the genre of science fiction. A novelist, short story writer, critic, editor, and translator, Denis has often focused her writing on new technologies and their impact on societies. She also will explore themes of climate change and migration (her current focus) and will share her experience as a woman writing (French critical theory has had much to say, controversially, about the female literary voice). Finally, how does translation affect the presentation of literary work and science fiction especially? She will be interviewed by fantasy writer Marie Brennan, whose work Denis has translated.

Sunday, April 29

12:15 - 1:30 **Women & Speculative Fiction: Following the Footsteps of Atwood, Butler, and**

**Le Guin**

Åsa Avdic, Maggie Shen King, Lidia Yuknavitch, Meg Elison

Margaret Atwood, Octavia Butler, and Ursula Le Guin are three titans of speculative fiction, having lit the way for a new generation of women who hold in their hands the future of the genre. Among this new generation is Asa Avdic, whose new book "The Dying Game" was called "an Orwellian debut novel that never lets up"; breakout novelist Maggie Shen King, author of "An Excess Male" (which was dubbed "'The Handmaid's Tale' of a new generation"); literary powerhouse and award-winning author of "Book of Joan" Lidia Yuknavitch; and influential feminist writer Meg Elison, who won the Philip K. Dick Award for her novel, "The Book of the Unnamed Midwife."

1:30 - 3:00 **A Free Trip to Another World: Fantasy in Young Adult Literature**

Shea Ernshaw, Lexa Hillyer, Anna-Marie McLemore, Laura Sebastian, Leslye Walton

It's a popular sentiment, wanting to escape the drudgery of everyday life in favor of new worlds—worlds where fairy tales take on new life, where gardens and witches have the power to enchant people, where young princesses and budding witches seek to find their place. You won't want to miss these authors as they discuss the intricate worlds they've built and where they find the inspiration for the fantastical in this world. Hear from bewitching novelist Shea Ernshaw, Founder and President of Publishing at Glasstown Entertainment Lexa Hillyer, magical realist author Anna-Marie McLemore (who incorporates multicultural magic into her literary worlds), debut fantasy writer Laura Sebastian, and best-selling author Leslye Walton.

3:30 - 4:45 **The Empire and the Resistance of Sabaa Tahir**

Here's one reason why young adults today are so outspoken: They've been exposed to powerful political heroes since a young age—via their fiction. Pakistani-American young adult fiction writer Sabaa Tahir's characters, no older than their teen readers, face despotism, oppression, and daily threats to their lives. In the face of the ruthless Martial Empire, our heroes risk everything to resist. These young heroes show us what's right, what's possible, and what sorts of governance need not be tolerated.