Frank Islam Athenaeum Symposia Fall 2019 Speaker Series Street Art, Public Voice, and Democracy





José Olivarez Citizen Illegal

Thursday, November 21 7:00 p.m. Germantown, Globe Hall

Light refreshments will be served.

José Olivarez is the son of Mexican immigrants and the author of the book of poems, *Citizen Illegal*, a finalist for the prestigious PEN/Jean Stein Book Award. In 2018, he was awarded thefirst annual Author and Artist in Justice Award from the Phillips Brooks House Association.

Olivarez's *Citizen Illegal* explores the stories, contradictions, joys, and sorrows that embody life in the spaces between Mexico and America. Olivarez paints vivid portraits of good kids, bad kids, families clinging to hope, life after the steel mills, gentrifying barrios, and everything in between. Combining wry humor with potent emotional force, Olivarez takes on complex issues of race, ethnicity, gender, class, and immigration.



