

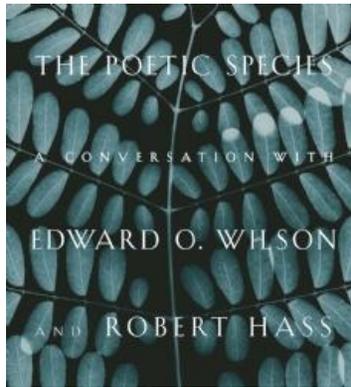
For Immediate Release



Publisher of the Pulitzer Prize-winning Tinkers by Paul Harding

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Announcing
The Poetic Species:
A Conversation with Edward O. Wilson and Robert Hass
with a Foreword by Lee Briccetti, Executive Director, Poets House



A meeting of great minds at the intersection of the arts and sciences

Human behavior is changing the living world. We have come to a moment of environmental crisis that has profound implications for the future of our own species and for the planet. In this stimulating conversation, former United States Poet Laureate Robert Hass and internationally acclaimed entomologist Edward O. Wilson discuss evolution, education, and the promise of “consilience”—or the unity of knowledge—in addressing our biggest problems. As they explore the many ways that poetry and science enhance each other, they travel from anthills to ancient Egypt and to the heights and depths of human potential.

In print for the first time, their shimmering dialogue is the outgrowth of a public conversation hosted by the American Museum of Natural History and Poets House, and published by Bellevue Literary Press, the first and only nonprofit press devoted to publishing literary fiction and nonfiction at the intersection of the arts and sciences.

A testament to how science and the arts can join forces to educate and inspire, the book is also a passionate plea for conservation of all the planet’s species.

Praise for Edward O. Wilson and Robert Hass

“No one but [Edward] O. Wilson could bring together such a brilliant synthesis of biology and the humanities, to shed light on the origins of language, religion, art, and all of human culture.”
—**OLIVER SACKS** on Edward O. Wilson’s *The Social Conquest of Earth*

“Wilson’s passionate curiosity—the hallmark of his remarkable career—has led him to these urgent reflections on the human condition. . . . This is a wonderful book for anyone interested in the intersection of science and the humanities.” — **STEPHEN GREENBLATT**, author of *The Swerve: How the World Became Modern* on Edward O. Wilson’s *The Social Conquest of Earth*

“Robert Hass is gifted with a probing intellect, a drive to get to the root of whatever question he has raised, as well as a confiding intimacy of address. His writing achieves the specific gravity that comes when close attention is followed by contemplation.” —**SVEN BIRKERTS, ROBERT GOTTLIEB, and MARK KRAMER**, PEN/Diamonstein-Spielvogel Award judges’ citation for Robert Hass’ *What Light Can Do: Essays on Art, Imagination, and the Natural World*

“Hass writes prose every bit as zestful, penetrating, and sure-footed as his poetry . . . affirm[ing] Hass’ stature as a philosophically attentive observer, deep thinker, and writer who dazzles and rousts.” —**Booklist** on Robert Hass’ *What Light Can Do: Essays on Art, Imagination, and the Natural World*

About the Authors

Edward O. Wilson is an American biologist, researcher, theorist, naturalist, and author who is often dubbed “the father of sociobiology.” He is the author of the *New York Times* bestsellers *The Social Conquest of Earth* and *Anthill: A Novel*, as well as the Pulitzer Prize–winning *On Human Nature* and (with Bert Hölldobler) *The Ants*. For his contributions in science and conservation, he has received more than one hundred awards from around the world. A professor emeritus at Harvard University, he lives in Lexington, Massachusetts.

Robert Hass has served as United States Poet Laureate and as a Chancellor of the Academy of American Poets. He has published many books of poetry, including *Time and Materials*, winner of both the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award, and *What Light Can Do: Essays on Art, Imagination, and the Natural World*, winner of the PEN/Diamonstein-Spielvogel Award. Awarded the MacArthur “Genius” Fellowship, the National Book Critics Circle Award (twice), and the Yale Younger Poets Prize, Hass is co-founder of River of Words, an environmental education program for children, and a professor of English at the University of California at Berkeley.

- Watch the original “Nature and Poetry” conversation between Edward O. Wilson and Robert Hass on YouTube: <http://bit.ly/RtASRk>
- Read the online companion series: Visit www.blpress.org/the-periodic-table for the BLP Conversation Series, featuring more exciting conversations between great thinkers at the intersection of the arts and sciences, including Austin Ratner in conversation with Joseph E. LeDoux (April 8), Charles L. Bardes in conversation with Tom Sleigh (April 23), Tim Horvath in conversation with Mark Changizi (May 8), Mary Cappello in conversation with Christine Montross (May 23), and David C. Cassidy in conversation with Dava Sobel (June 10)

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