Beauty and Belief is sponsored by Literature and Belief and Brigham Young University’s Department of English, College of Humanities, and the Office for the Study of Christian Values in Literature. It will be held Thursday, November 5, and Friday, November 6, at the Museum of Art at Brigham Young University.

Call for Papers

The conference will include a wide variety of sessions and topics, including—but not limited to—

- Creative writers discussing connections among (or possible conflicts between) aesthetics and faith in either their own work or the work of others.

- The analysis of literary texts or cultural artifacts that in some way explore or embody one or more aspects of religious belief or practice, broadly defined.

- A consideration of the impact of literary theory on religious belief and practice (and vice versa). Postsecular studies will be one topic for discussion, but presentations that cover other aspects of the relationship between theory and religion or theory and belief are equally welcome.

- Any other presentation that explores the complicated and sometimes fraught relationship between beauty and belief as embodied in music, literature, art, or culture.

Presentations should run approximately 15 minutes.

Deadlines

The deadline for abstracts and/or for proposals for category-specific sessions is July 31. Abstracts should be no more than 250 words. Abstracts and/or proposals for category-specific sessions should be sent to daniel_muhlestein@byu.edu or jesse_crisler@byu.edu

Featured Speakers

In addition to the usual conference sessions, Beauty and Belief will feature several keynote and plenary speakers, including
Martine Leavett, award-winning novelist and author of *Keturah and Lord Death* (finalist for the National Book Award for 2006) and *My Book of Life by Angel* (winner of the Canadian Library Association Young Adult Book Award for 2013).

Professor Jeanne Moskal, editor of the *Keats-Shelley Journal* and author of a number of books, including *Blake, Ethics, and Forgiveness*. Her current book-in-progress is “Jane Eyre’s Sisters: Women Missionaries and the Novel in the Age of Fundamentalism.”

Professor Lori Branch, author of *Rituals of Spontaneity* (winner of the Conference on Christianity and Literature Book of the Year Award for 2007) and the Ohio State University Press series editor for “Literature, Religion, and Postsecular Studies.”

Professor Van Gessel, former dean of the BYU College of Humanities and the primary translator of the Japanese novelist Endo Shusaku.

**Publication**

The featured speakers and selected presentations from the conference will be published in a 2016 conference-specific issue of *Literature and Belief*. 