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2022 Book One Lecture with Molly McCully Brown

GREAT BARRINGTON, MA—[Bard College at Simon's Rock](#) is pleased to welcome acclaimed author and Simon's Rock alumna [Molly McCully Brown](#) for a public talk reflecting on her award-winning collection of poetry and this year's Book One selection, [The Virginia State Colony for Epileptics and Feeble-minded](#) (Persea, 2017). The lecture and Q&A will take place Monday, August 29 at 7:00 p.m. in the McConnell Theater for the Simon's Rock campus community and the public; a live stream of the event will also be available, free of charge, via Zoom.

Named one of the best books of the year by *The New York Times*, *The Virginia State Colony for Epileptics and Feeble-minded* is haunted by the voices of those committed to the notorious Virginia State Colony, an epicenter of the American eugenics movement in the first half of the twentieth century.

Born with cerebral palsy, the author immerses herself in this devastating past, giving voice to the patients in the Colony's dormitories, infirmaries, and notorious blind room. For all the horrors it channels, this visionary book uplifts through communion with the natural world and between poem and reader. "Molly McCully Brown's first book of poems is part history lesson, part séance, part ode to dread. It is beautiful and devastating." *The New York Times*

Raised in rural Virginia, Molly McCully Brown is a graduate of Bard College at Simon's Rock, Stanford University, and the University of Mississippi, where she received her MFA. She teaches at Old Dominion University, where she is an Assistant Professor of English and Creative Nonfiction, and a member of the MFA Core Faculty. Molly has been the recipient of the Amy Lowell Poetry Traveling Scholarship, a United States Artists Fellowship, a Civitella Ranieri

Foundation Fellowship, and the Jeff Baskin Writers Fellowship from the *Oxford American* magazine. Her poems and essays have appeared in *The Paris Review*, *Tin House*, *The Guardian*, *Virginia Quarterly Review*, *Vogue*, *The New York Times*, *Crazyhorse*, and *The Yale Review*.

How to Join the Book One Lecture Live Stream

- [Join directly via Zoom](#)
- Webinar ID: 816 8487 4326
- Join via Phone: +1 646 931 3860
- [International numbers available](#)

Book One Program

Inaugurated in 2005, the [Book One](#) program asks all members of the incoming class to read the first book of their college careers over the summer. Each year, a book is selected based on excellence and suitability for promoting interdisciplinary conversations about the intersection of cultures. The fall semester kicks off with a lively lecture by the author, with past writers including Alexander Chee, Gregory Pardlo, Don Mee Choi, and Simon's Rock alums Veronica Chambers '87 and Prageeta Sharma '89.

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