TOM WOLFE WEEKEND SEMINAR

The Great Believers:
“Loss and Redemption”

Featuring

Rebecca Makkai ’99
Best-Selling Author

Author of Music for Wartime, The Hundred-Year House, and The Borrower

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Sponsored by the Washington and Lee University CLASS OF 1951

April 8 – 9, 2022

PROGRAM

Friday, April 8

2:00 – 3:45 PM  Registration  Early-Fielding Building Foyer
4:00 – 4:15 PM  Program Introductions (Rob Fure)  University Chapel
4:15 – 5:00 PM  The Great Believers: Vision and Revision (Rebecca Makkai)  University Chapel
5:15 – 5:45 PM  Book-Signing by Rebecca Makkai  Washington Hall
5:45 – 6:45 PM  Reception  Evans Dining Hall
6:45 – 8:00 PM  Dinner  Evans Dining Hall
Saturday, April 9

8:15 – 8:50 AM  Coffee          Elrod Commons Living Room
9:00 – 10:00 AM  What Art Can Do  
                   (Lesley Wheeler, Henry S. Fox Professor of English)  
                   Stackhouse Theater
10:00 – 10:30 AM  Refreshments  Elrod Commons Living Room
10:30 – 11:15 AM  Beyond the Great American Novel:  
                   Historical Reckoning with and in The Great Believers  
                   (Edward Adams, Professor of English)  Stackhouse Theater
11:20 – 12:00 Noon  Panel Discussion  
                     (Rebecca Makkai and Faculty)  Stackhouse Theater
12:00 – 1:00 PM  Lunch  Evans Dining Hall

Lesley Wheeler is the author of the forthcoming essay collection Poetry’s Possible Worlds and Poetry Editor of Shenandoah. Her previous books include The State She’s In, her fifth poetry collection, and Unbecoming, her first novel. Her work has received support from the Fulbright Foundation, Bread Loaf, Sewanee Writers Workshop, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Wheeler’s poems and essays appear in Kenyon Review Online, Poetry, American Poetry Review, Massachusetts Review, and other journals.

Edward Adams is Professor of English at Washington & Lee University with degrees in English and Classics from Amherst, Berkeley, and Yale. His monograph Liberal Epic won the “best-book” Perkins Prize from the International Society for the Study of Narrative in 2012. He has published widely on epic, the novel, poetry, and historiography and is currently completing two complementary monographs: Narrative Decline, a theoretical study of decline narratives centered around Edward Gibbon’s Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, and States of Decline, a history of struggling cities, industries, and regions in Maine and West Virginia grounded in local archives from Bluefield, WV to Millinocket, Maine.