“First, entertain;” “I hardly rewrite at all;” and “I really don’t know where the voices are coming from,” are just some of the gems from the world’s best novelists and poets to be shared by John Freeman during an upcoming reading from his new book, How to Read a Novelist, on Wednesday December 4, 2013 from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Macaulay Honors College, 35 West 67th Street, Manhattan. Drawn from the award-winning book critic’s collection of interviews with and reflections on prominent writers, Freeman’s new book offers insightful, perceptive, and empathetic scrutiny of such authors as Toni Morrison, Jonathan Safran Foer, E.L. Doctorow, Jennifer Egan, Dave Eggers, Haruki Murakami and, among others, A.S. Byatt. Through encounters with some of the most gifted writers of our time, Freeman explores with them their craft and their calling, their work habits and the little eccentricities of their lives, and triumphantly verifies that the art of the novel and the role of the novelist could not be more vital to our culture, commitments and self-knowledge. Notable among the writers in his book is leading novelist, essayist and pioneer of gay literature Edmund White, who will pick up on Freeman’s reading as they discuss the implications of Freeman’s book and its meaning for novelists and readers everywhere.

Free and open to the public. RSVP Requested

Admission: Free

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