

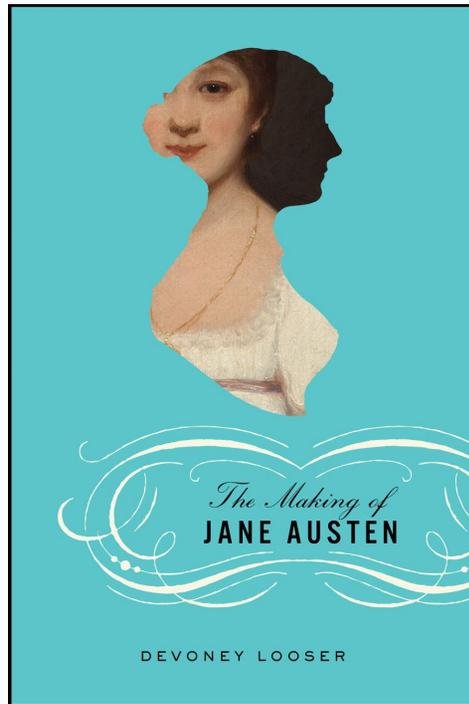
Mid-Manhattan Library  
welcomes

# Devoney Looser

presenting an illustrated talk on her book

**Publishers Weekly  
2017 Best Summer  
Nonfiction Book**

## The Making of Jane Austen



"... a fascinating study ..."—Jennifer Schuessler,  
*The New York Times Book Review Podcast*

**Thursday, June 29, 2017  
6:30 PM on the Sixth Floor**

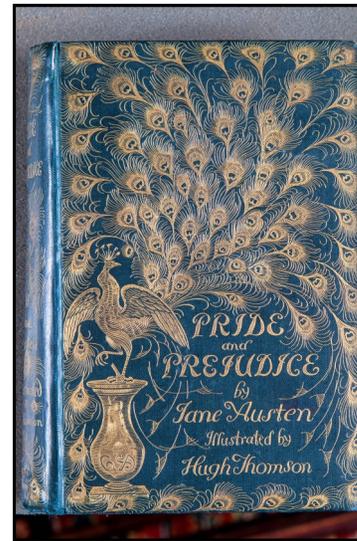
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How did Jane Austen, a little-known English novelist in her own lifetime, get made into an international literary icon? It started long before Colin Firth's wet-white-shirted Mr. Darcy in the BBC *Pride and Prejudice*.

This illustrated lecture introduces the audience to the unsung innovators who first turned "Miss Austen" into a household name. It wasn't only highbrow critics and famous author-fans in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries who fanned the flames of her celebrity. Their influence was more than matched by the artists, playwrights, activists, actors, and teachers who recreated

and packaged Austen for popular audiences.

This July marks the 200th anniversary of Jane Austen's death. Celebrate her by learning from Professor Looser about the earliest hot actors to play Darcy, the Austen-loving suffragette dramatists, and the bestselling illustrators and textbook editors who fashioned the "Jane! Austen!" ultimately handed down to us--the great novelist we know and love today.

About the presenter:

**Devoney Looser** is a professor of English at Arizona State University. She is the author or editor of six other books on writing by women and has published in *The Atlantic*, the *Times Literary Supplement*, *Slate*, *The Independent*, and *Entertainment Weekly*.

She grew up in Minnesota, where postage-stamp sized backyards were transformed into winter ice rinks using garden hoses, and cold weather brought more opportunities to snuggle up and read. Today she teaches Austen to students in the desert and has switched to roller skates. She's played roller derby under the name Stone Cold Jane Austen, married another Austen scholar, and is raising tween sons who find Austen tolerable but un-tempting.

Website: <http://makingjaneusten.com>



Elevators access the Sixth Floor after 6 PM.

All programs are FREE and subject to last minute change or cancellation.