

# Ron McLarty

AUTHOR OF

## *The Memory of Running*

and

## *Traveler*

**Ron's 3rd novel *Art in America* will be released July 7th**

McLarty loves taking his protagonists on journeys of discovery and redemption, and that is very much the case with his new novel, *Art in America*, a funny and affectionate story about a down-on-his luck writer who finally finds success and love.

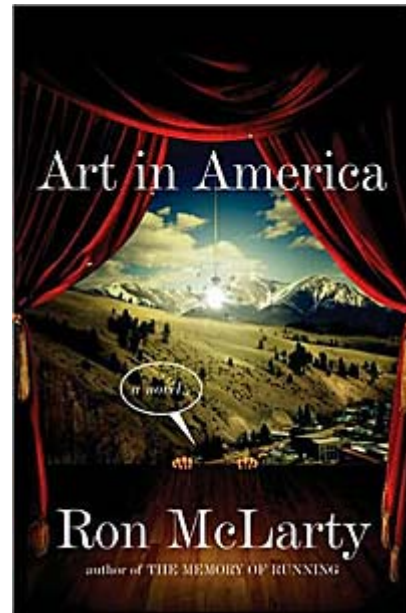
Steven Kearney is a bumbling, overweight man in his late forties who has produced thousands of pages of novels, plays, and poems – not a single one of which has ever been published. After being thrown out of his Manhattan apartment, Kearney takes shelter with his longtime pal Roarke, an actress and director. Out of the blue one day, he is offered a position as playwright-in-residence for three months at the Creedmore Historical Society in rural southern Colorado; they want him to write and direct a historical play about the town. When he arrives, all hell breaks loose.

### **Praise for *Art In America***

*One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* meets *A Confederacy of Dunces*. McLarty's storytelling skills shine in this ribald, riotously funny, but also poignant novel. You'll never look at the theater or the state of Colorado in quite the same way after reading it.

--David Baldacci

Ron McLarty's third novel, *Art in America* (Viking, July), is peopled with a bevy of wonderful characters. His characters are interesting not only for their flaws but also their humanity. Their dialogue is a joy to read. It's been a long time since I've read a book in which the dialogue stuck in my head like this. McLarty captures the spirit not only of the new West but the traditions of its variety of cultures. The novel's themes are not only how history has shaped us but also the rejuvenating effects of art and love. McLarty handles the multiple plot lines adeptly and with furious



energy. The book picks up momentum as the different plot lines come to their climaxes. The description of a theater piece central to the plot is among the most readable and exciting representation of theater I've read. *Art in America* is for anyone who may have lost a little faith in the power of either art or love.

--Joe Eichman/ Publisher's Weekly

Ambitious and consistently charming, this overstuffed third novel by the author of *The Memory of Running* is brimming with gems of richly observed small town life.

--Kirkus Review

The actor-playwright turned novelist offers a hefty slice of Americana-inflected entertainment in his latest novel. An actor adept at entertaining and holding an audience shows himself a novelist gifted with the same skills. . . . an immensely engaging and winning performance.

--Booklist

This is the third novel (following *The Memory of Running*, 2005, and *Traveler*, 2006) by veteran character actor McLarty, and the third time's the charm. A bighearted, wildly entertaining novel from a writer who just gets better with every outing.

--Joanne Wilkins /Publisher's Weekly

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