



For Immediate Release

Contact: [Alexandra K. Mann](mailto:alex@poetshouse.org), Publicity & Marketing Coordinator
(212) 431-7920, ext. 2818, alex@poetshouse.org

Extraordinary Spring Season Begins at Poets House February, 2013

*Breadth of Programming Includes Native American Symposium, the Russian Avant-Garde,
Readings by Members of the Dark Room Collective, CAConrad and Much More!*

New York, NY, February 6, 2013 — Poets House begins an extraordinarily energetic spring 2013 season this month, presenting programs and exhibitions set within its 50,000-volume poetry collection, one of the great places for poetry on the globe. The season begins with a visually rich exhibition on **Coffee House Press** that gives visitors the opportunity to experience the history of contemporary poetry publishing, but then builds to include: a landmark symposium bringing together a new generation of **Native American poets** such as **Sherwin Bitsui, Natalie Diaz, Joy Harjo** and **Cedar Sigo**; a talk on Philip Guston's poem-pictures by **Clark Coolidge**; a presentation on the influential and admired American post-war poet **James Wright**; readings by members of the **Dark Room Collective**, including U.S. Poet Laureate **Natasha Trethewey**; a journey with **CAConrad** through his "New (Soma)tics"; and international programs such as the poetry of the **Russian avante-garde**, Don Share on **Miguel Hernández**, Jennifer Scappettone on **Amelia Rosselli** and a discussion of the Greek poet **Yannis Ritsos** and his life and work.

All events take place at Poets House, 10 River Terrace in Lower Manhattan, (212) 431-7920 (poetshouse.org) unless otherwise noted. All events are \$10 for adults, \$7 for students and seniors and free to Poets House members unless otherwise noted.

February

Toothpaste & Coffee House: Change & Continuity

Saturday, February 9–Tuesday, June 4, 2013

Opening Reception and Talk: Saturday, February 9, 3:00PM with Allan Kornblum

Exhibition

Coffee House Press traces its history through the turbulence of recent transformations in poetry publishing, from letterpress editions and offset printing to newer technologies. The exhibit—including broadsides, chapbooks and important first editions—provides a capsule view of the trajectory of this independent press (and its precursor Toothpaste Press) renowned for adventurous discoveries, editorial excellence, elegant design and steadfast commitment to writers, readers and poetry.

Talk

Allan Kornblum, legendary founder and publisher of both Coffee House Press and Toothpaste Press, examines the history of poetry publishing from the clay tablet to digital imprints. Informed by his 40-year career in publishing, Kornblum explores the ways in which book-making shapes culture and imagines the future of literary publishing and independent presses.

Admission free

Sunday, February 10, 2:00PM

Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Publishing Poetry But Didn't Know Who or How to Ask with Allan Kornblum

This information-packed lecture by Allan Kornblum provides poets with practical guidance about preparing and submitting a poetry manuscript.

Thursday, February 21, 7:00PM

Blessing the Boats: A Tribute to Lucille Clifton

Location: CUNY Graduate Center, Proshansky Auditorium,
365 5th Avenue, New York City

A celebration of the life and work of Lucille Clifton

(1936–2010), features readings by Sherman Alexie, Tina Chang, Toi Derricotte, Michael Dickman, Timothy Donnelly, Cornelius Eady, Thomas Sayers Ellis, Nick Flynn, Rachel Eliza Griffiths, Marie Howe, Dante Micheaux, Sharon Olds and Tracy K. Smith, with musical interludes by mezzo-soprano Alicia Hall Moran.

Co-sponsored by CUNY Graduate Center for the Humanities, the Academy of American Poets, BOA Editions, Ltd., Cave Canem Foundation, CUNY Hunter, the Poetry Society of America and Poets House.

Admission free

March

Thursday, March 7, 4:30–5:45PM

An Afternoon with Adonis & Khaled Mattawa

Location: 2013 AWP Conference, Boston

Born in Syria in 1930, Adonis is one of the most revered poets of the Arabic-speaking world. An influential, and sometimes controversial, Modernist innovator in Arabic verse, Adonis and his English language translator, Khaled Mattawa, present a poetry reading, followed by a lively discussion about poetry and contemporary issues.

Admission free for registered AWP Conference participants; for details, please visit awpwriter.org.

Tuesday, March 19, 7:00PM

Passwords: Graham Foust & Samuel Frederick on Ernst Meister

Poet Graham Foust and scholar Samuel Frederick share their exquisite new translation of the penultimate book by existential German poet Ernst Meister (1911–1979), *In Time's Rift*. Often compared to Paul Celan for the difficulty and brevity of his poems, Meister created a body of work both emotional and strange. *Co-sponsored by The Bridge Series and Wave Books.*

Thursday, March 21-Sunday, March 24

Native Innovation: Indigenous American Poetry in the 21st Century

Sherwin Bitsui, Joe Bruchac, Natalie Diaz, Santee Frazier, Joy Harjo, Allison Hedge Coke, LeAnne Howe, Maurice Kenny, dg nanouk okpik, Cedar Sigo, James Thomas Stevens, Orlando White & Karenne Wood
This landmark symposium brings together a new generation of Native American poets in a convocation of readings and conversations for an in-depth look at the dynamic state of Native American poetry and poetics in the 21st century, co-curated and introduced by Joe Bruchac and Allison Hedge Coke. Featuring leading Native American poets, this event examines native languages, traditional storytelling, formal innovation, Native American politics and much more. *Presented by Poets House in partnership with the National Museum of the American Indian and with support from the Lannan Foundation. Co-sponsored by Copper Canyon Press and the University of Arizona Press.*

April

Thursday, April 4, 7:00PM

The Painter's Poet: A Talk on Philip Guston by Clark Coolidge

Experimental poet and jazz musician Clark Coolidge discusses Philip Guston's passion for poetry and wordplay as evidenced by the painter's own writing and his extraordinary series of poem-pictures, which incorporate verse by William Corbett, Stanley Kunitz and Coolidge himself, among others.

Tuesday, April 9, 7:00PM

Passwords: Don Share on Miguel Hernández

Deeply admired by poets from Federico García Lorca to William Carlos Williams, Miguel Hernández (1910–1942), was called by Pablo Neruda “a great master of language.” Don Share, senior editor of *Poetry* magazine, reads from Hernández's work in his award-winning translation, framing this great poet's life and poetry in the context of his time and the poets around him. *Co-sponsored by The New York Review of Books.*

Thursday, April 11, 7:00PM

Passwords: Karen Emmerich & Edmund Keeley on Yannis Ritsos

Translators Karen Emmerich and Edmund Keeley share their collaborative translation of *Diaries of Exile*, by the legendary Greek poet Yannis Ritsos (1909-1990), and discuss the poet's life in exile and powerful writing about Greek political life and history. *Co-sponsored by Archipelago Books and the Onassis Cultural Center.*

Friday, April 19, 7:00PM

Passwords: Lisa Jarnot on Robert Duncan

Robert Duncan often described himself as a “bookish poet.” Drawing from sources as varied as philosopher Alfred North Whitehead's *Process and Reality*, the kabbalism of *The Zohar*, and articles from *Scientific American* magazine, Duncan began his journey into the “made place” of the book. Poet Lisa Jarnot—whose biography of Duncan is a finalist for a National Book Critics Circle Award—will map out the varied intersections of Duncan's library, his bookishness and his entrance into poetics.

Saturday, April 20, 2:00PM Panel; 4:30PM Reading The Russian Avant-Garde Goes Underground: A Colloquium and a Reading with Anthony Anemone, Polina Barskova, Ainsley Morse, Eugene Ostashevsky, Peter Scotto, Bela Shayevich & Matvei Yankelevich

In the late 1920s the group of young Russian writers who called themselves OBERIU seemed poised for avant-

garde stardom, but the emergence of the Stalinist state, with its repression of avant-garde art, drove them underground. The editors and translators of Alexander Vvedensky's *An Invitation for Me to Think* and Daniil Kharm's *Notebooks* discuss the lives and works of these writers. *Presented in conjunction with the Jordan Center for The Advanced Study of Russia.*

Thursday, April 25, 7:00PM

Passwords: Jennifer Scappettone on Amelia Rosselli

Poet, translator and scholar Jennifer Scappettone discusses the work of the Italian poet and musicologist Amelia Rosselli (1930–1996)—whose first book was introduced by Pier Paolo Pasolini in 1964—and reads from her award-winning translation.

Tuesday, April 30, 7:00PM

Sekou Sundiata: Citizen Poet with Amiri Baraka, Kimiko Hahn, Jane Lazarre, Greg Tate & Talvin Wilks; Moderated by Malaika Adero

A conversation and book-signing to celebrate the publication of the retrospective catalog *Blink Your Eyes: Sekou Sundiata Revisited*. Jane Lazarre, Greg Tate, Kimiko Hahn, Amiri Baraka and Talvin Wilks reflect on the breadth of poet Sekou Sundiata's accomplishments and his influence as artist, activist, educator and bandleader.

Presented as part of Blink Your Eyes: Sekou Sundiata Revisited, a citywide retrospective produced by MAPP International Productions honoring the legacy of artist, poet and educator Sekou Sundiata.

Admission free

May

Tuesday, May 7, 7:00PM

Passwords: Stephen Dobyns on James Wright

Prolific poet and novelist Stephen Dobyns discusses the life and poetry of Pulitzer Prize-winner James Wright (1927–1980), one of the most influential and admired American post-war poets.

Saturday, May 11, 12:00 Noon

Nothing Personal: An Afternoon with the Dark Room Collective

- 12:00-1:45PM Panel moderated by Camille Rankine
- 2:00-3:30PM Reading with Tisa Bryant, Major Jackson, John Keene & Sharan Strange
- 3:45-4:15pM Musical Interlude with Janice Lowe
- 4:30-6:00pm Reading with Thomas Sayers Ellis, Tracy K. Smith, Sharan Strange & Natasha Trethewey

Panel and readings with Tisa Bryant, Thomas Sayers Ellis, Major Jackson, John Keene, Janice Lowe, Camille Rankine, Tracy K. Smith, Sharan Strange and Natasha Trethewey. The Dark Room Collective and Dark Room Reading Series were co-founded by Thomas Sayers Ellis and Sharan Strange in Cambridge, Massachusetts as a forum to promote exchange and foster community between emerging and established writers of color.

Wednesday, May 22, 7:00PM

Flowers Dreaming the Elevation Allegiance: A (Soma)tic Poetry Primer with CAConrad

In this program, based upon *A Beautiful Marsupial Afternoon: New (Soma)tics*, CAConrad will lead us through his philosophy of poets and poetry as a means to help solve the planet's ills and to "resist the urge to subdue our spirits and lose ourselves in the hypnotic beep of machines, of war, and the banal need for power, and things."

Tuesday, May 28, 7:00PM

May Swenson Centennial Tribute with Jeanne Marie Beaumont, Sharon Dolin, Langdon Hammer, Richard Howard, Jan Heller Levi, & Samantha Thornhill

In celebration of the centenary of May Swenson's birth, this reading showcases the breadth of her poetic output—from nature poems displaying her keen observation of wildlife, to exuberant, erotic love poems, to place poems recording her travels to the American Southwest, France and Italy and her residence in New York. *Co-sponsored by the Library of America and the Poetry Society of America.*

June

Tuesday, June 4, 7:00PM

Emerging Poets Fellowship Reading Hosted by Jen Bervin

A reading by the 10 poets in Poets House's second annual Emerging Poets Fellowship program. This program, which was made possible by the Jerome Foundation, assists emerging poets by providing excellent poetry writing instruction and mentoring in the special environment of Poets House's library. The 2013 Emerging Poets Fellowship workshop is taught by poet and teacher Jen Bervin. Distinguished Visiting Faculty include CA Conrad, Cornelius Eady, Ben Lerner, Evie Shockley and Jean Valentine.

Admission free

Poets House is a national 50,000-volume poetry library, literary center for adults and children, and exhibition space that invites poets and the public to step into the living tradition of poetry. Poets House — through its poetry resources, literary events, and archival and poetry-related visual art exhibitions — documents the wealth and diversity of modern poetry and stimulates public dialogue on issues related to poetry in culture. Founded in 1985 by two-time Poet Laureate Stanley Kunitz and legendary arts administrator Elizabeth Kray, the library has created a home for all who read and write poetry. In 2009, Poets House moved into its permanent home, at 10 River Terrace in Battery Park City, on the banks of the Hudson River. For more information about these events and Poets House in general, visit poetshouse.org and join us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

#