



For Immediate Release

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

Emily Dickinson at Poets House Extended to February 18th, 2012:
Experience the Power and Beauty of Emily Dickinson's Manuscripts and Letters
Exhibition of original manuscripts, letters, fragments, rare books and archival materials
Continues at Poets House By Popular Demand

New York, NY, December 27, 2011 — Due to popular demand, Poets House is extending the run of its must-see exhibition *Emily Dickinson at Poets House*, through February 18th, 2012. Poets House is honoring the life and work of Dickinson in a groundbreaking exhibition of original manuscripts, rare books and even a handwritten recipe, drawn from the Donald & Patricia Oresman Collection. With a smaller, concurrent exhibition of poet and artist Jen Bervin's Dickinson-based works, these exhibitions reveal the radical nature of the poet's handwritten pages, whether poem or letter, opening new doors for Dickinson lovers and simultaneously inspiring Dickinson neophytes. Both exhibitions are on view through February 18th in the Cheney Chappell Exhibition Space.

The Poets House exhibition is a rare opportunity to see first-hand and up close a select collection of letters and poetry fragments in Dickinson's hand. This unusual exhibition — a small gem — is beautifully curated by Bervin and makes a serious contribution to understanding Dickinson's radical use of the page.

"These original Dickinson manuscripts are almost never on exhibit to the public," said Bervin. "The stunning works on view in this exhibition capture the essence of Dickinson's elliptical poem-letters and intensely visual page compositions. It's moving, strong, and revelatory — in short, not to be missed."

Visitors to Poets House can get a rarely-seen view into that territory through these archival materials. The Donald & Patricia Oresman Collection is one of the larger holdings of privately-owned Dickinson manuscripts and most of the pieces are on view for the first time to the public. The Oresmans are also devoted readers and art collectors, and have previously exhibited their collection of prints, drawings and photographs of people in the intimate act reading at Poets House.

“Dickinson published very little in her lifetime,” said Poets House Executive Director Lee Briccetti. “Because her original champions changed her lineation and punctuation, and because it is almost impossible to see original manuscripts, Emily Dickinson is still revealing herself to us as an absolutely radical consciousness today. Hers is poetry of emotional states and undiscovered territory.”

Bervin's large-scale sewn composites are based on the variant marks in Emily Dickinson's manuscripts and are exhibited for the first time in New York. Bervin's work brings together text, textile and archival research in a practice that encompasses artist books, poetry and large-scale art works. Her publications include *The Dickinson Composites* (Granary Books 2010), *The Desert* and *Nets*. Her work is in over 30 collections including The J. Paul Getty Museum, the Walker Art Center and the Bibliothèque Nationale de France.

Poets House is a national poetry library and literary center that invites poets and the public to step into the living tradition of poetry. Poets House – through its poetry resources and literary events – documents the wealth and diversity of modern poetry and stimulates public dialogue on issues of poetry in culture. Founded in 1985 by poet Stanley Kunitz and arts administrator Elizabeth Kray, the over-50,000-volume library has created a home for all who read and write poetry. In the summer of 2009, Poets House moved to its permanent home at 10 River Terrace in Battery Park City and opened to the public on September 25, 2009. Now in its new home on the banks of the Hudson River and celebrating its 25th anniversary of public programming throughout the year, Poets House is brimming with readers, writers, children’s class trips and program audiences. For more information about these events and Poets House in general, call (212) 431-7920 or visit poetshouse.org, and join us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).