October – November 1991

## THE POETRY PROJECT

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## new staff, friday night events, the return of *the world*, "master lecture" series, plus special 25th anniversary events!

The Poetry Project opens its 25th Anniversary Season with a number of staff and programming changes. **Gillian McCain** is the Project's new Program Coordinator. She will also be hosting, beginning in November, a series of late evening events on Friday nights. **Wanda Phipps** joins the Poetry Project as the Monday Night Series Coordinator, and will be assisted by **India Hixon**. The monthly Lecture Series, which has, in recent years, been held on Sunday evenings, will be shifting to a Wednesday night time slot beginning in January; **Joel Lewis** will be curating a special series of five 25th anniversary "Master Lectures." We're also excited about the return of the Poetry Project's literary magazine, *The World*, which will be edited by **Lewis Warsh** and his "Reviving *The World*" workshop.

By the way, this *isn't* the *Poetry Project Newsletter*. If you're a Project member or contributor (see info. below on how to become one, if you're *not*) you'll be receiving your first newsletter of the season in December; a calendar in this new format will be included.

Among the special 25th-Anniverary Season events will be; a reading and reception celebrating the publication of *In and Out of the World* by Random House/Crown (edited by **Anne Waldman**, this will be the third anthologization of *The World*); a commemorative Poetry Project display on the MTA kiosks at the Astor Place Subway Station (beginning in December); a Walt Whitman "Duet of the Open Road" simul-lecture by Allen Ginsberg & Kenneth Koch"; a gala spring party; and *more*.

On a more somber note, it is with regret that we note the passing of poet **James Schuyler** and painter **Robert Motherwell**, both of whom will be greatly missed.

## THE POETRY PROJECT WISHES TO THANK

Consolidated Edison Company of New York, The City of New York's Department of Cultural Affairs, the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts, the Office of Councilmember Miriam Friedlander & the City Council of New York, the Rex Foundation and the Witter Bynner Foundation for their recent grants.

THE POETRY PROJECT WISHES TO EXTEND ITS APPRECIATION TO ITS NEW AND RECENTLY RENEWED MEMBERS AND CONTRIBUTORS:

Dorothy Allison, Sheila Alson, Ruth Altmann, Jack Anderson, Vyt Bakaitis and Sharon Gilbert, Andre T. Balazs, Neil Baldwin, Rania Barber, Laura Baudo, Diane and Irving Benson, Martin Bienstock, Howard Bindelglass, Joe Brainard, Paula Brancato-Fritsch, Les Bridges, Barbara Bristol, Lee Ann Brown, Mary Ann Caws, Steve Clay, Andrei Codrescu, Elena Coon Prentice, Robert Crozier, Paul Cummings, Hal Davis, Anne Delaney, James DeWoody, Steve and Diane Di Costanzo, Glen Dornfeld, David Elsasser, Ernestine Elster, Robert Fanuzzi, Cheri Fein, Norma Flender, Harold M. Fondren, Richard Foreman, Edward Foster, Elizabeth Fox, Raymond Foye, Jane Freilicher, Michael Friedman, Soichi Furuta, Michael Gabriel, Susan Gevirtz, Michael Goldberg, Morris Golde, Michael Golde and Belle Golde, Brad Gooch, Charles Red Grooms, Chaim and Renee Gross, Mimi Gross, Sylvia Guirey, Joanna Gunderson, Jack Hagstrom, MD, Linda Hamalian, Steve Hamilton, Lyn Hejinian, Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Heller, Marjorie Henning, Sarah Holbrook, Jenny Holzer, Blake Hornick, Lita Hornick, Mr. & Mrs. Louis Hornick III, Vicki Hudspith & Wallace Turbeville, Erica Hunt, Michael S. Immordino, Jonathan Jacobs, Ron Janoff, Marc Janoson, Fred Kaufman, Justin Kelly, Nathan Kernan, Hansa Khanolkar, VP, Leslie Kippan, Jane Kitselman, Doris Kornish & Phil Hartman, Lance and Kathleen Kouri, Lane & Kathleen Kouri, Fay Lansner, Ann Lauterbach, Annabelle Lee, Frank Lennon, Elmore Leonard, Manuel and Irma Levenson, Manuel Levinson, Living Batch, Ltd., Joseph Lovett, Craig Lucas and Timothy Melester, Kim MacConnel, Irving Malin, Kathy Lynn Maschke, Harry Mathews, Gerald Mazza, Dave McConnell, Parvaneh Mehdian, Philip Miller, Freda Minsky, Seymour Mizels, Alexandra Moltke Isles, Honor Moore, Anne Moynihan, William Murphy, Elinor Nauen, Karen Newberg, Maureen O'Hara, Hank O'Neal and Shelley Shier, Michele Oka Doner, Frank Olinsky, Darragh Park, Mark Penrose, Marjorie Perloff, Nick Piombino, Key Ransone, Martha Ronk, Daniel and Joanna S. Rose Fund, Inc., Marvin A. Sackner, Barbara Sahlman,

## BECOME A MEMBER OF THE POETRY PROJECT !!

Yes I wish to become a member of The Poetry Project. Here is my tax deductible membership gift:

\$50	\$75	\$100	\$250	\$500	\$1000

No, I do not wish to join at this time but here is my tax-deductible contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

(For your gift of \$20 or more you'll receive a year's subscription to The Poetry Project Newsletter.)

Address	and the second	E and the se
City	State Zip	

Choice of *The World Record* or John Ashbery's *Flow Chart*, if your gift is \$100 or more (please specify):

All gifts are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law. Please make all checks payable to The Poetry Project.

YOUR TAX-DEDUCTIBLE GIFT ENTITLES YOU TO THESE MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS.

**\$50** FREE admission for a year to all regularly scheduled Poetry Project events! PLUS discounts on admission to special events. <u>PLUS</u> a year's subscription to *The Poetry Project Newsletter*!

**\$75** FREE admission for a year for you and a guest to all regularly scheduled Poetry Project events. PLUS discounts on admission to special events. PLUS a year's subscription to *The Poetry Project Newsletter*!

**\$100** All of the \$75 membership benefits. PLUS your choice of free gift: *Flow Chart* by John Ashbery or *The World Record*, a two-record set of historic readings at The Poetry Project by some of the greatest writers of our time.

**\$250** FREE admission for a year for two to all Poetry Project events PLUS In and Out of the World, a historic anthology of the Poetry Project's influential literary magazine.

\$500 FREE admission for a year for yourself and two others to all Poetry Project events PLUS *In and Out of the World*, a historic anthology of the Poetry Project's influential literary magazine AND grateful public acknowledgement.

\$1000 All of the \$500 membership benefits AND all 1991-91 Poetry Project publications.



# Calendar of Events

## O C T O B E R

# WED KENNETH KOCH & RON PADGETT

C

8:00 PM Kenneth Koch is one of our great poets and teachers. David Lehman of The Washington Post describes Koch as a -natural 21-year-old: his poetry likes playing pranks, never gets fatigued, is amazingly clever and has a very active libido." Among his many books are One Thousand Avant-Garde Plays, Selected Poems, 1950-1982, and Seasons on Earth. Ron Padgett's most recent book is The Big Something. Pat Nolan writes in the San Francisco's Poetry Flash, "He has kept alive a penchant for the

## -1-1 NOVEMB

FRI RUDY BURCKHARDT

Burckhardt's photographs, paintings and films becomes more apparent with each passing year. He will be screening four recent films: In Bed (with a poem by Kenneth Koch); Indelible Ineclible (with a poem by John Ashbery); Night Fantasies (music by Elliott Carter); 10:30 PM Rudy Buckhardt has been described by John Ashbery as a "Subterranean monument." The breadth and beauty of and Great Regular Flavor (with a poem by Daniel Shapiro, age 5).

A O N OPEN READING B:00 PM Hosted by Wanda Phipps, Sign-up is at 7:30.	WED	<b>8:00</b> M. Less concerned with the toils of plot than rendering zones of experience, <b>Lydia Davis</b> ' stories concretize events in language that's scintillating and clarifying. A translator from the French of Blanchot and Sartre, her own books include <i>Break It Down</i> and <i>Story and Other Stories</i> . <b>Leslie Scalapino</b> recently received the Before Columbus Foundation's American Book Award. Discussing her <i>The Return of Painting, The Pearl, and Orion</i> . A <i>Trilogy</i> , Robert Greeley writes, "Edges of meaning and relationship become here the intensive ground of their endlessly volatile statement."	F R I PETER LAMBORN WILSON 10:30 <sup>IM</sup> Scholar, fiction writer and essayist Peter Lamborn Wilson is an editor of <i>Semiotext(e)</i> in one of his fumace-side chats, he will be dehing into some of his favorite realms: chaos theory, Sufism, poetic terrorism and the death of the avant-garde.	A NON POETS 4 3:00 NM POETS 4 revival of coffee house poetry stylings is a tribute to the history of Black music – jazz, blues, gospel and rap.	<b>13</b> WED YUKI HARTMAN & TERENCE WINCH 8:00 M. Author of <i>Ping, Red Rice</i> and <i>New Poems</i> (Empyreal, Montreal), Yuki Hartman's poetry provides lustrous montaged imagery among dream landscapes and waking urban interiors – a rare verbal precision in ordinary and extraordinary thought. Whether Frence Winch is musing about sex and partnership, exclining neighborhood cronies or pledging to write an endless series of murder mysteries in which the orangating did it, his poems exude an initiate heroic maanetism that's hard to resist. A certral fibrare of the DC writing score he is the leader of the music mount Caling	Thunder and author of the award-winning <i>Irish Musicians, American Friends.</i> F R I MUDFISH MAGAZINE READING 10:30 PM A reading by ten poets who have been published in <i>Mudfish</i> , a journal of art and literature devoted to works by Dostoewskian dreamers, pop culture afficianados and synaesthetic linguists. Edited by Jill Hoffman, the magazine is in its sixth issue.	48 MON J.B. MILLER & MICHAEL ROTHENBERG 8:00 PM J.B. MILLER & MICHAEL ROTHENBERG Life in Action Painting and his short works have appeared in <i>Paris Passion</i> and the <i>New York Times Magazine</i> . Michael McClure says of poet-horticulturist Michael Rothenbergs recent book, "For sheer scope and clarity, there is nothing like <i>Favorite Songs</i> , the poems range from a fantasy for the American Surfer to an elegy for an extinct sparrow."	<b>200</b> WE D HARRY MATHEWS & MARJORIE WELISH 8:00 M Poet and novelist Harry Mathews cites as his themes "discovery, loss, rediscovery(and no stopping at that point)." A founder of the seminal New York School literary review <i>Locus Solus</i> , his recent books include <i>Armenian</i> <i>Papers</i> and <i>The American Experience</i> . "MarJorie Wellsh, with her astonishing arrays of meaning, her lyric agility in response to variations on poetic experience," writes Barbara Guest, "adds a rare substance to the tortuous surface of Modernism. "Wellsh's books of poetry include <i>The Windows Flew Open</i> , Handwritten and <i>Two Poems</i> .	7 F R I DARK ROOM COLLECTIVE 10:30 M Based in Boston, Dark Room Collective is a group of young African-American writers who, in the words of American film critic Clyde Taylor, "are further ahead of the historical process than any other literary community of the 60's or today." A journal from the collective, <i>Muleteeth</i> , is now in production. Mo N YARA ARTS GROUP 3:30 PM Yara Arts Group creates and sponsors at events that focus on issues relevant to Eastern Europe. By layering slides, music and text, they create an original approach to the staging of historical/documentary poetry - not plays, but	docu-dreams. Their new theater work will be performed this fall at La Mama.	2nd Ave. & 10th St. • Manhattan • (212) 674-0910 ndowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts, and the City of New York's Department of Cultural Affairs. The Poetry
<ul> <li>primitive, boldly drawn, unpretentious line". Among his many other books are The Tulsa Kid and How to be a Woodpecker. In 1991, University of California Press will publish Padgett's translation from the French, The Complete Poems of Blaise Cendrars.</li> <li>MON OPEN READING</li> </ul>	W. 00:9	WE D ABBA ELETHEA & CECIL TAYLOR 8:00 IM Post and performer Abba Elethea has been an energetic presence on the Lower East Side scene since the 1960's, when he was a member of the Umbra group. His books include <i>The First Fire</i> and <i>The Antioch Suite Jazz</i> . <b>Cecil Taylor</b> has, for over twenty-five years, been one of contemporary music's major innovators. His most recent record album is <i>In Florescence</i> (A&M Records). A mesmerizing reader/performer, he is currently at work on a volume of poems and a collection of essays on music.			<b>6.00</b> M Of <b>Bernadette Mayers</b> The Sonnets, Joel Lewis writtes, "A new direction of writing that merges the best between Petrarch and Screamin' Jay Hawkins." More than collections of writing, books like <i>Memory, Utopia</i> , and <i>Studying Hunger</i> are rigorous explorations of knowledge, phenomenology and consciousness. New Directions will issue <i>The Bernadette Mayer Reader</i> next year. <b>Tom Raworth</b> writes poems of incredible precision and range. A pastorality of articulated thought, a prose poem style reminiscent of <i>Metal Machine Music</i> , plus everything in between. His books include <i>Visible Shivers</i> and <i>Tottering State</i> . <i>Selected and New Poems</i> 1963-1983.	t bom from the womb of a leaky et <i>babyfishlost its momma.</i> acter, text and movement. In his re father's achilles heal is a club			<ul> <li>Moore started performing in experimental theater at an age of 16. In her recent musicals she explores the concept of Surrealist movement, sound and text.</li> <li>WE D DEBORAH PINTONELLI &amp; LOIS ELAINE GRIFFITH</li> <li>We D Medorah Pintonelli's writing traverses what has been described as "Fellini-like landscape – lush, late-at- night, ozicing with the iconography of post-modem nomaticism." Her books are Maer and Memory and the Ego Monkey. Lois failine Griffith is a Director of the Nuyorican Poets Cafe. Her recent work can be found in such magazines as <i>Scarlet</i> and <i>Ikon</i>. A remarkable ear for dialogue and a unique grasp of the interpersonal complexities created by gender, class and culture have always distinguished her writing. She is at work on a novel. Under the Skin.</li> </ul>	Admission: \$5 (contribution), except where noted. All Programs subject to change	The Poetry Project • St. Mark's Church • 2nd Ave. & 10th St. • Manhattan • (212) 674-0910 The programs of the Poetry Project, ltd. are made possible, in part, with public funds from the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts, and the City of New York's Department of Cultural Affairs. The Poetry

## WRITING WORKSHOPS

## POETRY AND PROSE WORKSHOP

We will investigate and experiment with as many of the ways of writing poetry and prose as we have time for, based on all our knowledge and the study of the writing of others, especially each other's. Taught by Bernadette Mayer. Thursdays at 7 pm (October 17th through the end of April). The workshop will be limited to 25 students. Register, in person, at the Poetry Project office or by mail.

BERNADETTE MAYER is the author of eleven books of poetry and prose. Her recent books include Sonnets and The Formal Field of Kissing. In 1991, New Directions will publish The Bernadette Mayer Reader. She has taught writing workshops at the Poetry Project since 1971.

## **EXCAVATING VOICES**

What are the pronouns behind the "I", behind and between the "I" and its selves? Who, what or where is behind the pronouns? What are the voices suspended inside any one of us? What voices out there speak to the ones in here? Does their language meet any experience the "I" might know? How to get from here to there through language, by language and in language. How to know that it is still to happen, even as it has and is. How to begin asking questions that will lead to other questions. A writing workshop for poet-archeologists. Taught by John Yau. Fridays at 7 pm (October 18th through the end of January). Register, in person, at the Poetry Project office or by mail.

JOHN YAU is a poet, curator and art critic. His most recent books are Radiant Silhouette: New and Selected Work (1974-1988), and Big City Primer, a collaboration with the artist Bill Barrette, forthcoming from Timken Publishers in November.

### **REVIVING THE WORLD**

Our aim is to edit and produce four issues of The World, the magazine of the Poetry Project dormant since 1983. Each member of the workshop is a contributing editor who will gather and select the work to be included in the magazine, and assist in production. Writing by workshop members will be included in each issue. Taught by Lewis Warsh. Saturdays at noon (October 19th through the end of April). The workshop will be limited to 12 students. Those wishing to participate in the workshop should submit five pages of their own poetry or prose. Works must be submitted by October 10th in order to be considered.

LEWIS WARSH edited Angel Hair magazine (with Anne Waldman), The Boston Eagle (with Bill Corbett and Lee Harwood), and United Artist magazine (with Bernadette Mayer). He is presently editor and publisher of United Artists Books and a contributing editor to Long News Magazine. His books include two novels, Agnes & Sally and A Free Man, and numerous collections of autobiographical writing and poetry.

## **REGISTRATION FEES**

Registration for the workshops costs \$150; \$50 for regular annual membership in the Poetry Project plus \$100 annual workshop membership. Those enrolling in workshops who are already members of the Project and have paid for workshop memberships need only renew their memberships upon expiration.

## **BOOKS RECEIVED**

Belligerence Poems, Andrei Codrescu; Coffee House Press, 1991 (27 North Fourth Street, Suite 400, Minneapolis, MN 55401). 79 pages. \$8.95 paper.

Bendable Siege, Albert Mobilio; Red Dust, 1991 (P.O. Box 630, NYC 10028). 16 pages. \$3 paper.

By Ear, Gloria Frym; Sun & Moon Press, 1990 (6148 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90048). 79 pages. \$9.95 paper.

The Champagne of Concrete, Kit Robinson; Potes & Poets, 1991, (181 Edgemont Avenue, Elmwood, CT 06110). 87 pages. \$9 paper.

Correspondence Between the Stonehaulers, Jack Agueros; Hanging Loose Press, 1991 (231 Wyckoff Street, Brooklyn, NY 11217). 74 pages. \$9 paper.

The Countess From Minneapolis, Barbara Guest; Burning Deck, 1991 (71 Elmgrove Avenue, Providence, RI 02906). 42 pages. \$8 paper. Democracy Assemblages, Andrew Levy; Innerer Klang, 1990 (7 Sherman Street,

Charlestown, MA 02129). 25 pages. No price listed.

Description, Arkadii Dragomoschenko, translated by Lyn Hejinian and Elena Balashova; Sun & Moon Classics, 1990. 135 pages. \$11.95 paper.

Even a Fist Was Once an Open Palm with Fingers, Yehuda Amichai; Harper Perrenial, 1991 (10 East 53rd Street, NYC, 10022). 96 pages. \$10.95 paper.

Executive Summary, Bruce Andrews; Potes & Poets Press, 1991. 92 pages. \$9 paper.

Exiles: Ends and other poems, Leonard Schwartz; Red Dust, 1990. 14 pages. \$3 paper.

A Form Of Taking It All, Rosmarie Waldrop; Station Hill Press, 1990 (Barrytown, N.Y. 12507). 89 pages. \$9.95 paper.

A Free Man, Lewis Warsh; Sun & Moon Press, 1991. 349 pages. \$11.95 paper.

Gyptian in Hortulus, Michael Gizzi; Paradigm Press, 1991 (11 Slater Avenue, Providence, R.I., 02906). 19 pages. \$4 paper.

Hand Over Heart, David Trinidad; Amethyst Press, 1991 (6 West 32nd Street, NYC, 10001-3808). 127 pages. \$9.95 paper.

Home Before Light, Cheri Fein; Ridgeway Press, 1991 (P.O. Box 120, Roseville, MI 48066), 23 pages, \$5 paper.

The Leroi Jones/ Amiri Baraka Reader, edited by William J. Harris; Thunder's Mouth Press, 1991 (54 Greene Street, Suite 4S, NYC 10013). 498 pages. \$14.95 paper.

## The Poetry Project at St. Mark's Church

Founded in 1966, the Poetry Project, Ltd. at St. Mark's Church in-the-Bowery was the scene of the only joint reading by Robert Lowell and Allen Ginsberg and has been the site of historic memorials to poets Paul Blackburn, Robert Duncan, Charles Reznikoff, Frank O'Hara, Ted Berrigan, and Edwin Denby. Over the years, readers, lecturers and performers have included John Ashbery, John Cage, Sam Shepard, Alice Walker, Amiri Baraka (Leroi Jones), Virgil Thomson, Barbara Guest, Hugh Kenner, Adrienne Rich, Kenneth Koch, James Schuyler, Yoko Ono, Nicanor Parra, and Patti Smith. Staffed completely by poets, the Poetry Project consistently achieves an integrity of programming that challenges, informs and inspires working writers, while remaining accessible to the general public. The Poetry Project offers a Wednesday night reading series, a Monday night reading/performance series, three weekly writing workshops, a monthly lecture series, a printing and distribution center, a literary magazine, a quarterly newsletter, an annual four-day symposium, a broadcast service and tape and document archives. For twenty-five years, the Poetry Project has furnished encouragement and resource to poets, writers, artists and performers whose work is experimental, innovative and pertinent - to writing that proposes fresh aesthetic, cultural, philosophical and political approaches to contemporary society. While being committed to the highest standards of artistic excellence and to preserving vital literary traditions, the Poetry Project has always encouraged the participation of new poets with diverse styles. In fact, each year one-third of the writers presenting work at the Project are doing so for the first time.

Looks Like I'm Walking, Ted Greenwald; Case Books, 1991 (P.O. Box 292, Salisbury, CT 06068). 20 pages. No price listed.

Loop, John Taggart; Sun & Moon, 1991. 236 pages. \$10.95 paper.

The Love Space Demands (a continuing saga), Ntozake Shange; St. Martins, 1991 (175 Fifth Avenue, NYC 10010). 64 pages. \$15.95 hardcover.

The Melody Never Stops, Kofi Natambu; Past Tents Press, 1991 (3168 Trowbridge, Hamtramck, MI 48212). 69 pages. \$8 paper.

Our Nuclear Heritage, James Sherry; Sun & Moon, 1991. 262 pages. \$10.95 paper. Necromance, Rae Armantrout; Sun & Moon Press, 1991. 49 pages. \$8.95 paper.

Nice to See You: Homage to Ted Berrigan, edited & with an introduction by Anne Waldman, 1991. 253 pages. \$14.95 paper. Personal Effects, Charlotte Carter; United Artists, 1991 (Box 2616, Peter Stuyvesan Station, NYC, 10009). 93 pages. \$6 paper.

Realism, Tom Mandel; Burning Deck, 1991. 80 pages. \$8 paper.

Rough Trades, Charles Bernstein; Sun & Moon Press, 1991. 106 pages. \$10.95 paper.

Selected Poems: 1963-1973, David Antin; Sun & Moon, 1991. 431 pages. \$12.95 paper.

Selected Poems, Robert Creeley; University of California Press, 1991 (2120 Berkeley Way, Berkeley, CA 94720). 353 pages. \$25 hardcover.

Three Variations on the Theme of Harm: Selected Poetry and Prose, Douglas Oliver; Paladin, 1991 (8 Grafton Street, London W1X 3LA). 254 pages. \$12.95 paper.

The Trick: New Stories, Fielding Dawson; Black Sparrow Press, 1991 (24 Tenth Street, Santa Rosa, CA 95401). 155 pages. \$12.50 paper.

Trimmings, Harryette Mullen; Tender Buttons, 1991 (P.O. Box 1290, Cooper Station, NYC, 10276-1290). 66 pages. \$7 paper.

Up At Two, Frances Phillips; Hanging Loose Press, 1991. 63 pages. \$9 paper.

What is the inside, what is outside?: O / two An Anthology, edited by Leslie Scalapino; O Books, 1991 (5729 Clover Drive, Oakland, CA 94618). 188 pages. No price listed.

The Poetry Project, Ltd. St. Mark's Church 131 East 10th St. (at 2nd Ave.) New York, NY 10003

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