



THE

POETRY

PROJECT





## THE POETRY PROJECT AT ST. MARK'S CHURCH IN-THE-BOWERY

The Poetry Project at St. Mark's Church In-the-Bowery, located at Second Avenue and Tenth Street, in the heart of New York City's East Village, has been of service for almost a decade to the writers and people of the community. The Poetry Project has become an integral part of the cultural life of Manhattan. It provides a series of free writing workshops taught by young, energetic poets who have a reputation for leadership and innovation in the writing community. There are monthly open readings, a lecture series, open Monday performance nights, scheduled readings on Wednesday nights, a mimeographed magazine entitled THE WORLD, one of the oldest extant publications of its kind in the country, as well as numerous other magazines and pamphlets. The Project also publishes a monthly Newsletter of general information about poetry and publishing, mailed to over 700 writers and other interested persons throughout the world.

The Poetry Project is unique in that it offers open public readings by major poets. It has a strong appeal for many young people who frequent the readings and workshops, many of whom cannot afford to pay the fees required by other organizations in the city. During readings by poets such as Allen Ginsberg, Robert Bly, Gary Snyder, and Michael McClure we've had audiences of one thousand or more. The group and benefit readings sponsored by the Project draw audiences of this size. Perhaps even more important is the steady, intelligent and critical audience for lesser-known poets. Poets from all parts of the country have read at St. Mark's and many regularly attend the readings whenever they come to New York. The Poetry Project is one of the major points of contact for the exchange of ideas and information among the various individuals and groups of the American poetry scene.

## DIRECTORS AND STAFF

Anne Waldman, Director, has been working at the Project since its inception and has been heading it since 1968. She is the author of four books of poems, editor of two anthologies and of THE WORLD magazine.

Larry Fagin, Maureen Owen and Bernadette Mayer, Assistants.

Staff and Consultants: Lewis Warsh, Bill MacKay, Ron Padgett, John Godfrey, Dick Gallup, Regina Beck, Ed Friedman, Allen Ginsberg, Ted Greenwald, John Giorno.

A list of biographies follows.

## READINGS - WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERIES

The scheduled readings on Wednesday nights continue to have a large enthusiastic following. Enormous audiences attend group readings which are held three or four times each season, allowing many poets to reach a heterogeneous audience, which they would usually not have the opportunity to confront. Examples of these group readings are the "New Year's Benefit Reading," celebrations of Christmas, the "Valentine's Day Reading" and the Gertrude Stein Marathon. As the accompanying list of scheduled readers shows, we have tried to achieve a balance between well-known, established poets, and younger poets who are just beginning to make their mark in the poetry world. (A Wednesday night reading is scheduled every spring for members of the writing workshops.). We have attempted to include readings by poets from all regions of the country, as well as the East Coast megalopolis (Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Washington). Covers, flyers, and posters for readings and magazines have been contributed by such artists as Alex Katz, Joe Brainard, George Schneeman, Donna Dennis, Philip Guston, and Yvonne Jacquette.

## OPEN READINGS

The "open" readings, held on the first Monday of every month, provide a forum for all members of the creative community to present new work or work-in-progress. Though many of these writers live in the immediate area, others come from all parts of the city and its suburbs to read.

## PERFORMANCE NIGHTS

The Monday performance nights, managed by Ed Friedman, are held three Mondays a month and are open to any writers or performers whose work focuses on verbal material. Three or four people are scheduled to perform up to one week in advance. These Monday nights often include music, plays, dance and lectures along with poetry. Less-established, new and more experimental writers and artists working with language in areas other than poetry are then given a chance to read or perform a larger cross section of their work. Many of these readers first come to the open readings, or, are poets who are in New York and want to give a reading here; they can do so on short notice. As this series becomes more well-known, the audience for it has developed into a regular following.

## GUEST POETS

Well-known poets feel strongly about reading at the Project. Many travel a considerable distance to read at St. Mark's, even though we are not able to pay the fee they normally expect. They are especially attracted by the serious and discerning audiences. Robert Creeley, for one, has spoken of the closeness he feels with the St. Mark's audience. He has often made the trip to the Project from either his home in California or his teaching residence at Buffalo, at his own expense. Michael McClure has expressed this same interest in the audience we have here. Donald Hall calls the audiences at

the Project "the friendliest ever," and travels at his expense from Ann Arbor, Michigan, to read. Other poets, such as Robert Kelly, have tried to use the Poetry Project as a "proving ground" for new or difficult work. Poets closely linked with the arts in Manhattan, such as John Ashbery and Kenneth Koch, have been dedicated to the Project, knowing how important their readings are to the community.

### WORKSHOPS

The workshops have always been an integral part of the Poetry Project. Approximately 150 different people are involved over a 44-week period. Currently, there are three writing workshops open to all at no charge. The participants range widely in age, and include students, professional people and dropouts. The workshops are a marked alternative to the usual college creative writing programs. The teachers are young and active poets who often share their own writing problems with the other group members, promoting a spirit of equality rarely found in academic circles. The emphasis is on analysis and group discussion of members' work, and new writing projects. Also, attention is paid to current trends and techniques in contemporary poetry. The staff is composed of accomplished writers from a wide range of writing disciplines. Their qualifications are included below.

### WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

Many who have been involved in the workshop program, both as teachers and students, have attained considerable recognition in the teaching and writing fields. Ted Berrigan first taught at the Project, and has since gone on to the Iowa Writers Workshop, the University of Michigan, Yale, Northeastern Illinois University, and is presently at the University of Essex in Colchester, England. Ron Padgett had been with the Teachers and Writers Collaborative in New York City,

and has done extensive teaching in the public schools of Connecticut and Minnesota. Lorenzo Thomas was recently made Writer-in-Residence at the Ethnic Arts Program of the Black Arts Center in Houston, Texas. Dick Gallup has been a teacher and resident poet in public schools in New York, Connecticut, New Jersey and Virginia, and is currently poet-in-residence in West Virginia. Jim Carroll came to the Project in 1968, at the age of 17; he has since given readings at major universities, published in POETRY and THE PARIS REVIEW, and a collection of poems, LIVING AT THE MOVIES (Grossman/Viking) has just been published. After entering Ted Berrigan's workshop at the Project, Carter Ratcliff began to edit and publish his own magazine; two years later he taught a Project workshop; he's currently an art critic for ART INTERNATIONAL and other publications. Tom Weatherly was in Joel Oppenheimer's 1967 workshop and has subsequently taught creative writing at Rutgers, been poet-in-residence at Bishop College in Dallas, and at Morgan State College in Baltimore, and has published two collections of poetry; he has also co-edited an anthology of new Black poets, NATURAL PROCESS. Bernadette Mayer's workshop in experimental writing has been continuing since 1971. This work has led the group to many kinds of investigations of the process of collaboration and resulted in the publication of a new magazine, UNNATURAL ACTS, co-edited with Ed Friedman. UNNATURAL ACTS continues to publish the results of these experiments in magazine and book form.

#### LECTURE SERIES

A weekly Friday lecture series has been added to supplement the workshops and has generated interest in the Project at large. Lecturers have included: Vito Acconci, artist; David Antin, Professor of Art, University of California at San Diego; John Giorno, poet; Michael Harner, Professor of Anthropology, New School for Social Research; Jackson MacLow, poet; Harold Rothbart, author of CYBERNETIC CREATIVITY, and Dean of Engineering, Fairleigh Dickinson University; David Rubinfine, psychoanalyst; Martin Tammy, Deputy-Chairman, Department of Philosophy, CCNY; and Galen Williams, Director, Poets and Writers. Like the poets, many of these lecturers have found at the Project their most serious and intelligent audiences.

## PUBLICATIONS

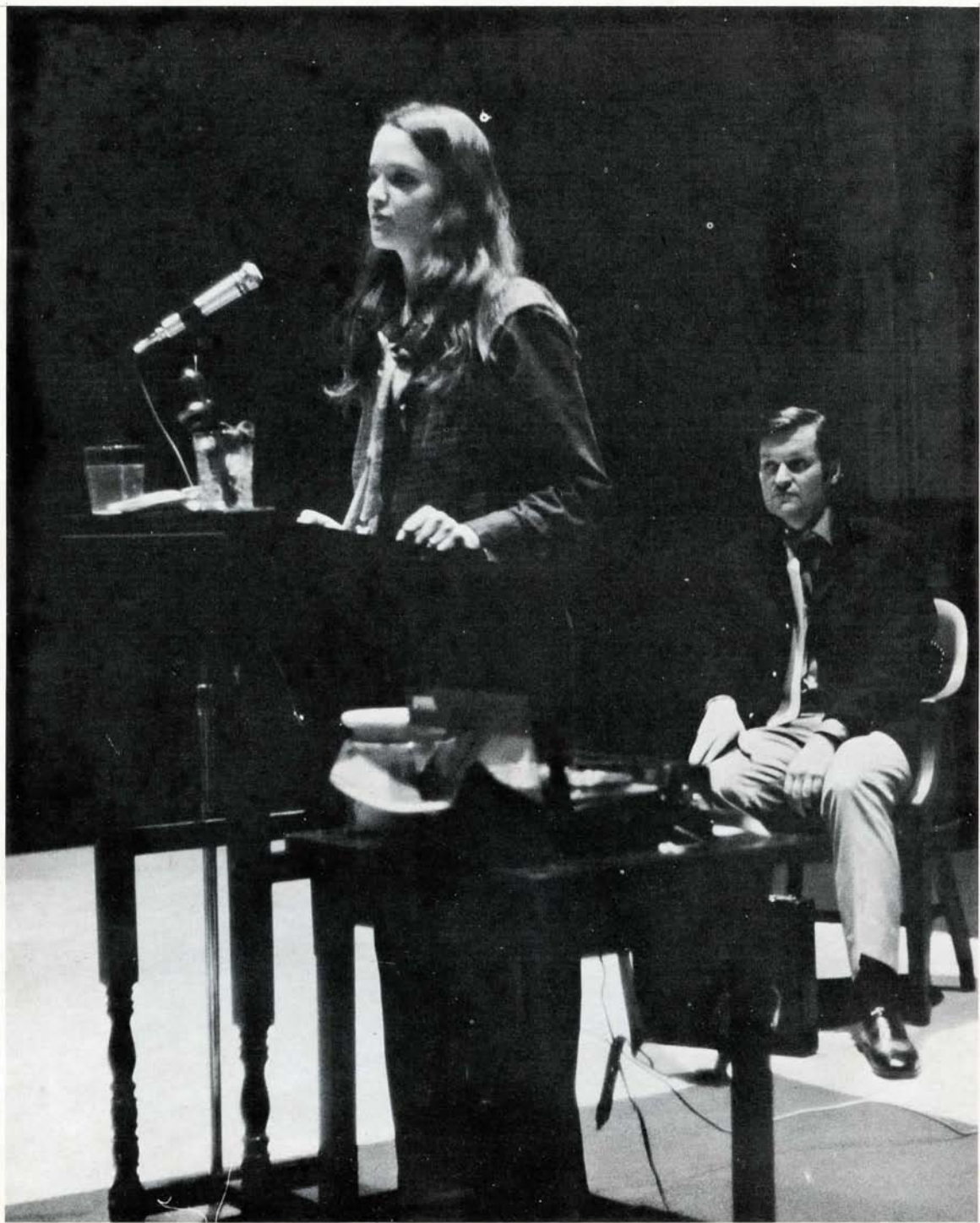
THE NEWSLETTER, edited by Bill MacKay, is published monthly and distributed to 700 people all over the world and the list keeps growing. It disseminates information about poetry events, publishing, grants, art exhibits, new books and magazines, and the workshops and Monday night activities. The NEWSLETTER publishes a poem each month.

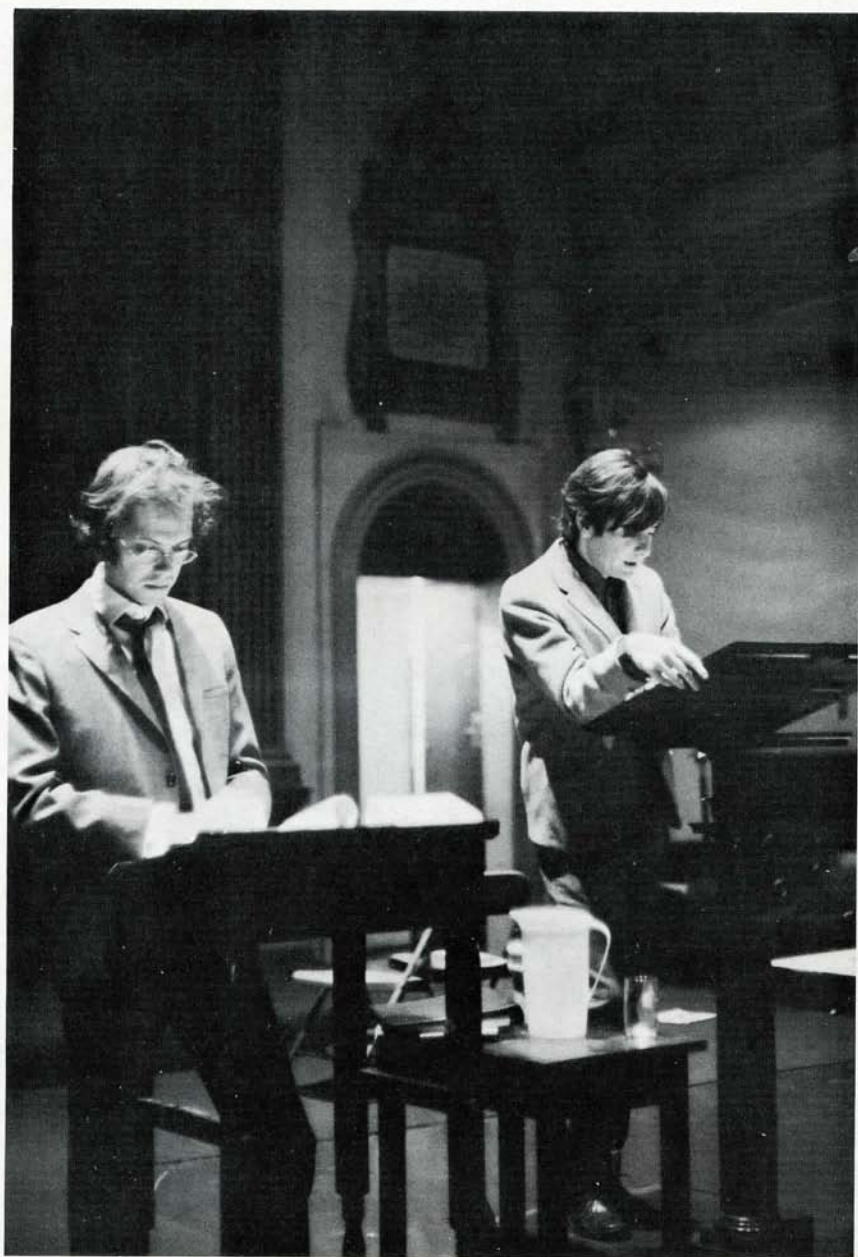
THE WORLD, in its 29th issue, is a community-oriented magazine, arising from the activities of the Poetry Project. Work is solicited from all parts of the country as well. It is typed, mimeographed, collated, stapled, and distributed by members of the poetry community. The magazine is often used as a text in the workshops. An anthology of writing from THE WORLD was published by Bobbs-Merrill in 1969, and a sequential anthology, ANOTHER WORLD, came out in 1971. The magazine has published work by many young poets and prose writers who have since attained international reputations with books at major publishing houses.

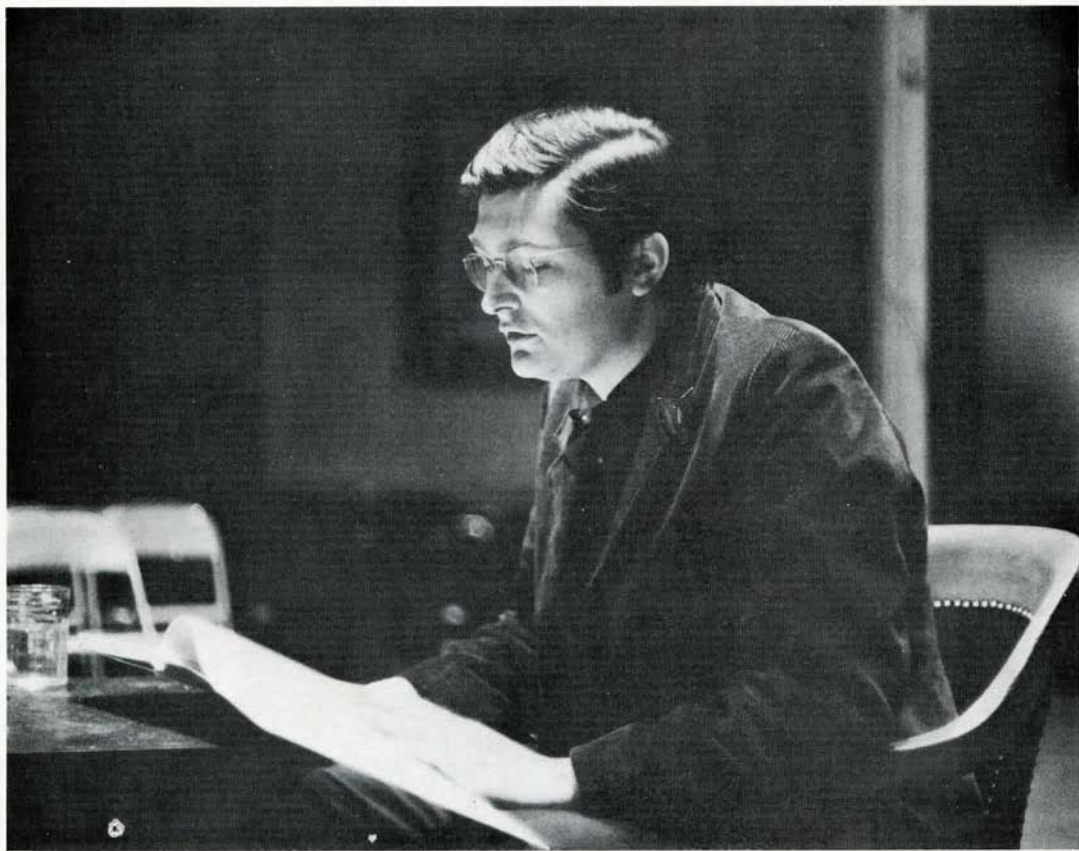
## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Other magazines and small presses have been edited and published by writers associated with the Project, using the facilities available. These include: ADVENTURES IN POETRY (Larry Fagin), TELEPHONE (Maureen Owen), UNNATURAL ACTS (Bernadette Mayer and Ed Friedman), OUT OF THIS WORLD (John Perreault), and Z, a magazine edited by Kenward Elmslie and distributed and made available through the Project. The workshops have also produced their own magazines, including LIFE, from Tom Veitch's prose workshop, and WORKSHOP, a collection of one year's work from Bernadette Mayer's workshop in experimental writing, edited by Peter Stamos and Nicholas Piombino. The Project has also supported in part John Giorno's DIAL-A-POEM experiment.

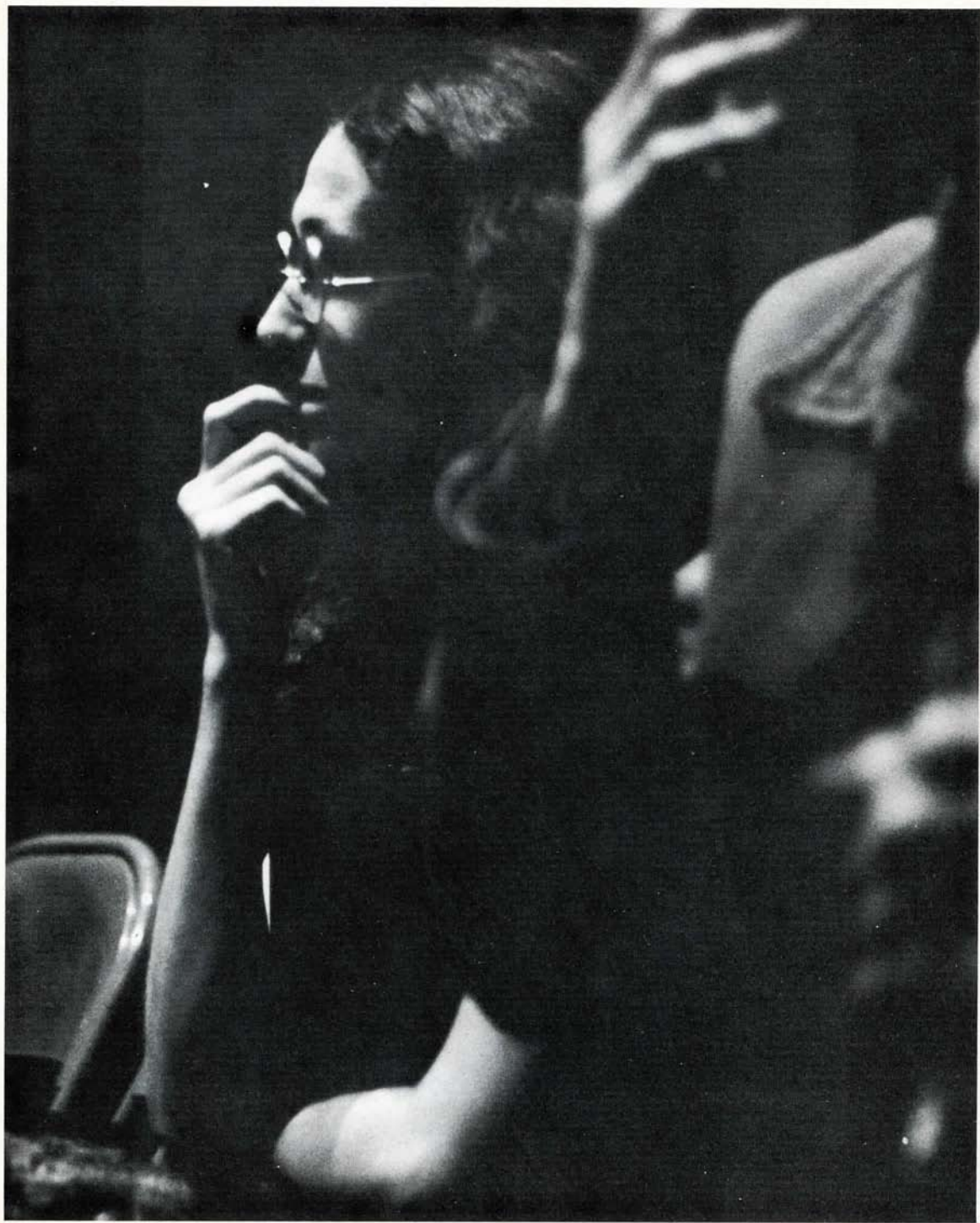


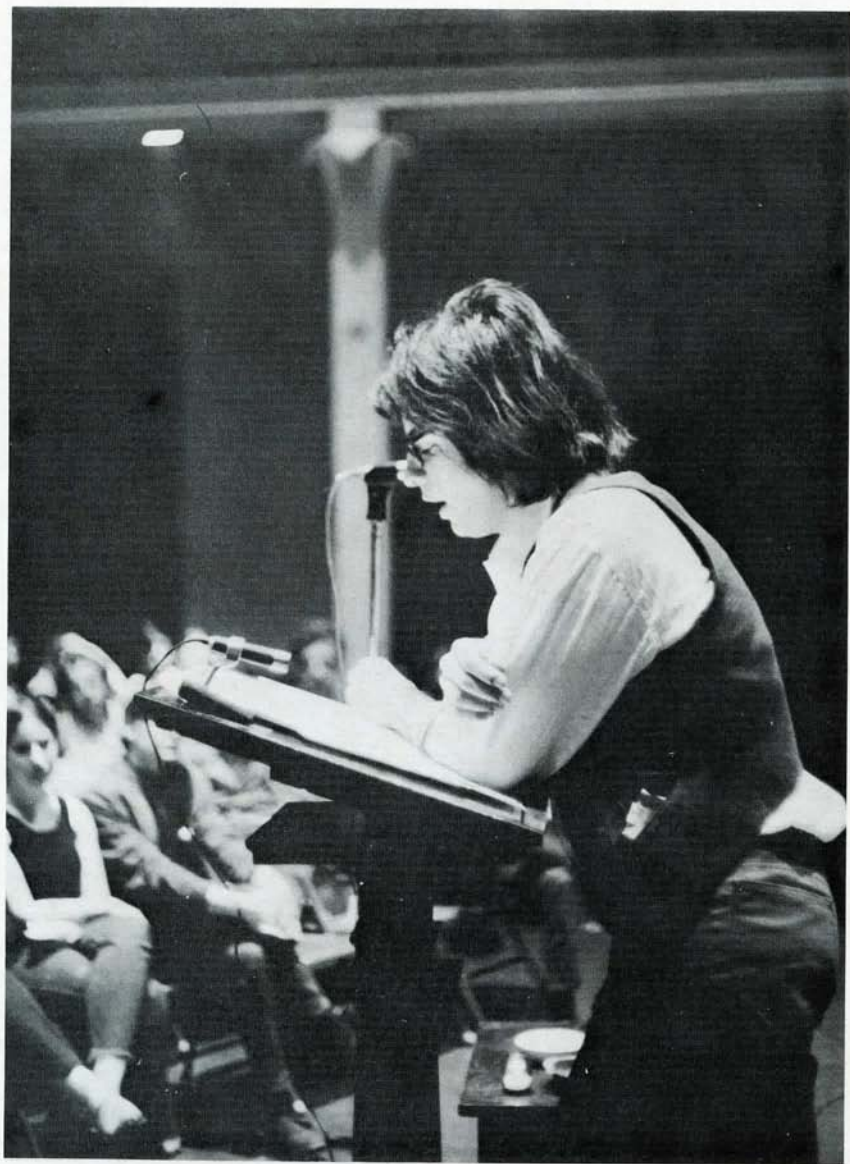




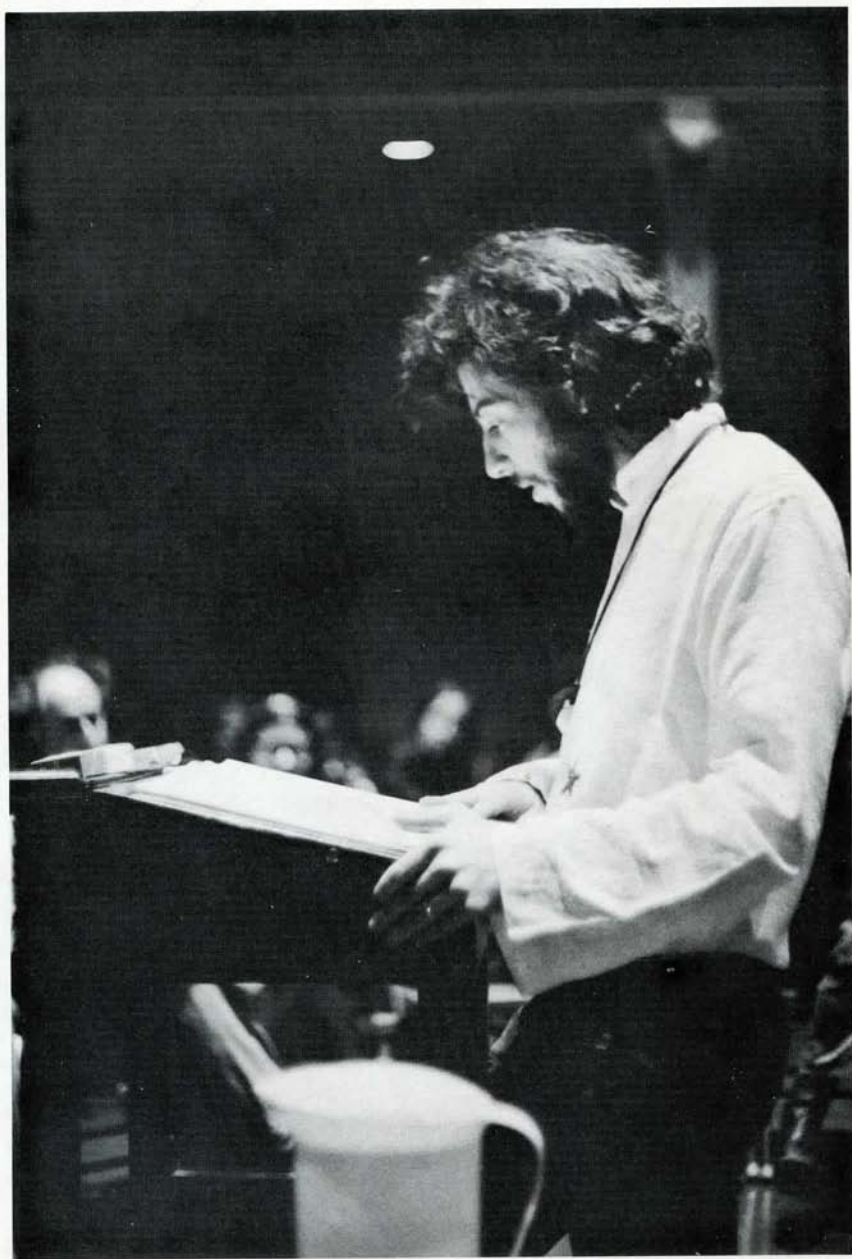




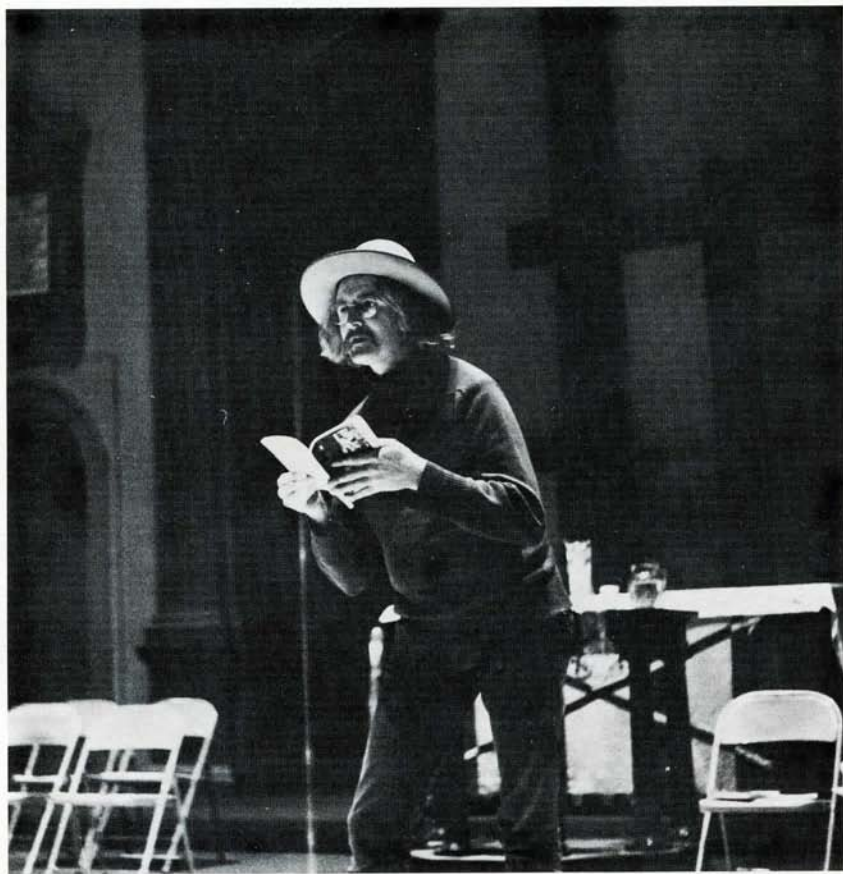




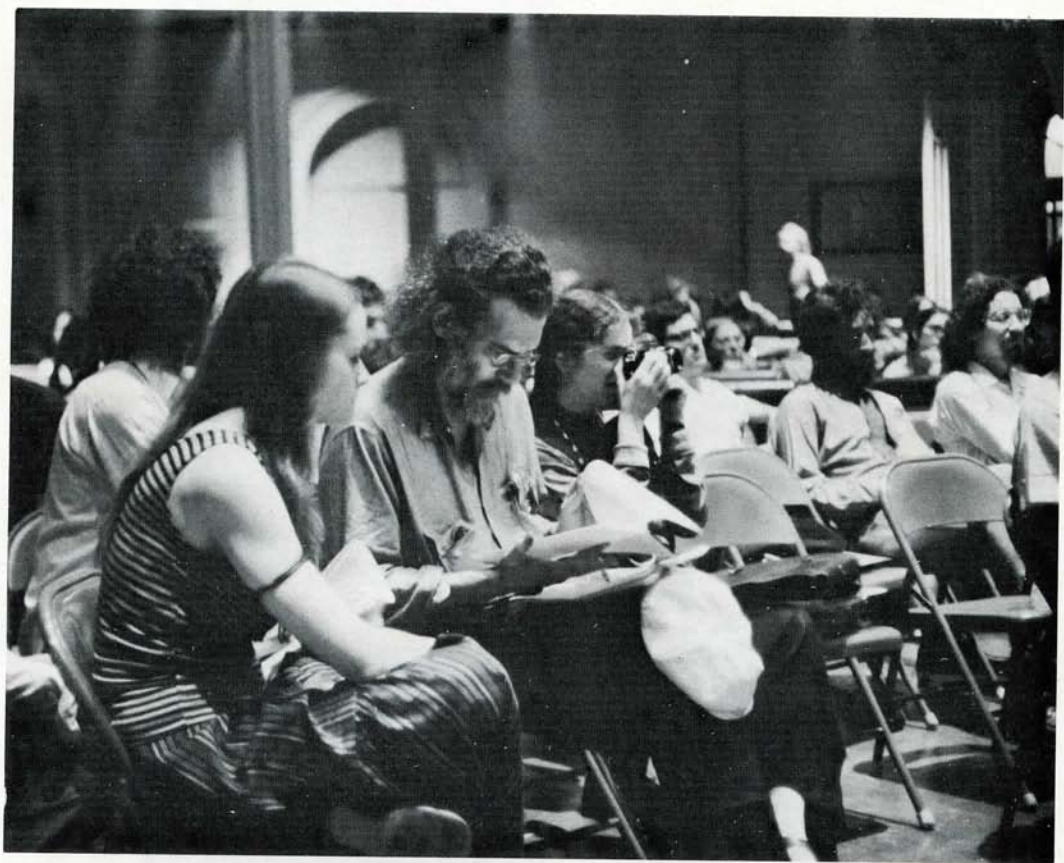














## LIBRARY, CASSETTES AND VIDEO TAPES

Over the years, a library of poetry pamphlets, magazines, and tape cassettes has been collected. In future, we would like to add video tape recordings. The printed matter is from all over the world, and the tapes are recordings of the Wednesday night readings at the Church. The potential use of this material in educational institutions outside the Project is invaluable.

## SUMMARY

The Poetry Project has been associated with St. Mark's Church for almost a decade. The Church has provided space and administrative aid to the Project. The space has allowed the Project to remain in one location and thereby develop strong ties with other cultural and educational organizations in the local community. The professional administrative skills provided by the Church administration have helped immeasurably to keep the Project alive. Naturally, we have relied heavily on the dedication of the poets and artists to our program. Many of them give their time to Project endeavors, while others agree to teach workshops and give readings at rates far below the usual standard. The program, until now, has been sustained by grants from a combination of foundations, governmental and individual donors. It is only through such support that the Poetry Project will continue its amazing growth and service to the community and to the arts.

SOME OF THE POETS WHO HAVE READ AT THE POETRY PROJECT:

Sam Abrams Vito Acconci Helen Adam Jack Anderson David  
Antin John Ashbery Lynn Banker Glen Baxter Regina Beck  
Michael Benedikt Bill Berkson Ted Berrigan Paul Blackburn  
Robert Bly Ebbe Borregaard Joe Brainard Richard Brautigan  
Ray Bremser Jim Brodey Harvey Brown Rebecca Brown  
Michael Brownstein Jim Carroll John Cage Joseph Ceravolo  
Josephine Clare Tom Clark Andrei Codrescu Robert David Cohen  
Scott Cohen Clark Coolidge Bill Corbett Gregory Corso  
Robert Creeley Victor Hernandez Cruz Edward Dahlberg  
Fielding Dawson Samuel Delany Allen DeLoach Jim Dine  
Diane DiPrima Thomas M. Disch Ed Dorn George Economou  
Kenward Elmslie Clayton Eshleman Larry Fagin Ralston Farina  
James T. Farrell Lawrence Ferlinghetti Mary Ferrari Vincent  
Ferrini David Franks Kathleen Fraser Dick Gallup Allen  
Ginsberg Merrill Gilfillan John Giorno Larry Goodell  
Ted Greenwald Barbara Guest Donald Hall Lee Harwood  
David Henderson Anselm Hollo Fanny Howe Andrew Hoyem  
David Ignatow Ted Joans Joe Johnson Jill Johnston Steve  
Katz Robert Kelly George Kimball Ed Kissam Bill Knott  
Kenneth Koch Greg Kohl James Koller Tuli Kupferberg  
Joanne Kyger Gerrit Lansing Carl Larsen Denise Levertov  
Harry Lewis Frank Lima Ron Loewinsohn Phillip Lopate  
Lewis MacAdams Jamie MacInnis Jackson MacLow Gerard Malanga  
Steve Malmude Ed Marshall Jack Marshall Clive Matson  
Bernadette Mayer Michael McClure Taylor Mead David Meltzer  
Catherine Murray Kathleen Norris Charles North Alice Notley  
Toby Olsen George Oppen Joel Oppenheimer Peter Orlovsky  
Maureen Owen Rochelle Owens Ron Padgett Nicanor Parra  
Raymond Patterson John Perreault Donald Phelps Nicholas  
Piombino Allen Planz Charles Plymell George Quasha  
Carter Ratcliff Steve Raven Tom Raworth Ishmael Reed  
J.D. Reed Adrienne Rich Larry Rivers Steve Rodefer  
David Rosenberg Jerome Rothenberg Muriel Rukeyser Sonia  
Sanchez Ed Sanders Aram Saroyan Harris Schiff Peter  
Schjeldahl Carolee Schneeman Armand Schwerner Hugh Seidman  
David Shapiro Joel Sloman Patti Smith Richard Snow  
Gary Snyder Carl Solomon A.B. Spellman Paul Spike  
Johnny Stanton Charles Stein M.G. Stephens James Tate  
Sotere Torregian Tony Towle Quincy Troupe Robert Vas Dias  
Janine Pomy Vega Tom Veitch Charlie Vermont Peter Viereck  
Paul Violi Diane Wakoski Anne Waldman Lewis Warsh  
Tom Weatherly Hannah Weiner Joseph White John Wieners  
Britt Wilkie Trevor Winkfield Rebecca Wright Bill Zavatsky  
And others

BIOGRAPHIES OF STAFF  
AND WORKSHOP TEACHERS (PAST AND PRESENT)

TED BERRIGAN: Faculty, Iowa Writers Workshop, University of Iowa, University of Michigan, Yale University, Northeastern Illinois University, University of Essex, England; former editor, "C" Magazine; publications include THE SONNETS (Grove Press), BEAN SPASMS (collaborations with Ron Padgett and Joe Brainard, Kulchur Press), MANY HAPPY RETURNS (Corinth), IN THE EARLY MORNING RAIN (Cape Golliard-Grossman).

JIM CARROLL: Author of LIVING AT THE MOVIES (Grossman/Viking) and THE BASKETBALL DIARIES, published extensively in THE PARIS REVIEW, ANGEL HAIR, ADVENTURES IN POETRY and POETRY magazine.

FIELDING DAWSON: Well-known prose author. Books include: THREAD (Ferry Press), FRANZ KLINE: AN EMOTIONAL MEMOIR (Pantheon), CRAZY KAT/THE UNVEILING (Black Sparrow), THE MANDALAY DREAM (Bobbs-Merrill), THUNDER ROAD/THE DREAM (Black Sparrow), THE SUN RISES INTO THE SKY (Black Sparrow).

DIANE DIPRIMA: Editor of FLOATING BEAR Magazine and THE POETS PRESS; author of DINNERS & NIGHTMARES (Corinth), NEW HANDBOOK OF HEAVEN (Auerhahn), LOVE POEMS FROM THE MIDDLE LATIN (Poets Press), MEMOIRS OF A BEATNIK (Olympia), REVOLUTIONARY LETTERS (City Lights), LOBA (Part 1).

LARRY FAGIN: Assistant Director of the Poetry Project; Director of the Writers Workshop at MUSE (Brooklyn Children's Museum); Poets Foundation Grant (1969); Editor and publisher of ADVENTURES IN POETRY Magazine and Books; publications include: PARADE OF THE CATERPILLARS (Angel Hair Press), BRAIN DAMAGE (Sand Project Press), LANDSCAPE (Angel Hair), TWELVE POEMS (Angel Hair), RHYMES OF A JERK (Kulchur Foundation).

ED FRIEDMAN: Author of THE NEW SPACE; Editor, UNNATURAL ACTS and Assistant editor, ALCHERINGA.

DICK GALLUP: Author of WHERE I HANG MY HAT (Harper & Row), THE BINGO (Mother Press); has taught poetry to children in the public

schools of New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and Virginia; poet-in-residence, West Virginia Arts Council.

TED GREENWALD: Co-editor of EAR magazine; Author of THE NEW MONEY (Sand Project Press), MAKING A LIVING (Adventures in Poetry), SOMEWHERE IN HO (with Ed. Baynard, Buffalo Press), BLINK (Buffalo Press), NO EATING (Sand Project Press), SHORT SLEEVES (Buffalo Press), LAPSTRAKE (Lines Books).

ZAHUR KLEMATH: Colombian poet and editor of AZU Magazine.

SEYMOUR KRIM: Editor and essayist; former journalist with The Village Voice; two collections of essays, THE NEAR-SIGHTED CANNONEER (Dutton) and SHAKE IT FOR THE WORLD, SMARTASS (Dial).

FRANK LIMA: Winner of the Gotham Bookmart Avant-Garde Poetry Prize (1962); first collection of poems, INVENTORY (Tibor de Nagy) published 1964; John Hay Whitney Award (1964); published widely in magazines and anthologies; new book: UNDERGROUND WITH THE ORIOLE (E.P.Dutton).

BERNADETTE MAYER: Former editor O TO 9 Magazine; editor, UNNATURAL ACTS; Author of STORY (O TO 9) and MOVING (Angel Hair); MEMORY, an image/sound performance, at the 98 Greene Street Loft (1972). Has worked extensively with video-taped poetry and events.

STEVE MALMUDE: Author of CATTING (Adventures in Poetry).

MURRAY MEDNICK: Playwright-in-residence at Theater Genesis, New York City; published plays include THE HAWK, THE HUNTER, DEERKILL (all with Bobbs-Merrill).

JOEL OPPENHEIMER: Formerly Director of the Poetry Project (1966-68) and of Teachers and Writers Collaborative; Poet-in-residence, City College of New York: books: THE DUTIFUL SON (Corinth), THE LOVE BIT (Corinth), IN TIME (Bobbs-Merrill), ON OCCASION (Bobbs-Merrill) and THE WRONG SEASON (about the N.Y. Mets, Bobbs-Merrill).

MAUREEN OWEN: Author of COUNTRY RUSH (Adventures in Poetry); Editor of TELEPHONE Magazine and Books.

RON PADGETT: Fulbright Scholar (Paris, 1966); author of BEAN SPASMS (with Ted Berrigan and Joe Brainard, Kulchur Press),



a translation of Apollinaire's THE POET ASSASSINATED (Holt), and a collection of poems, GREAT BALLS OF FIRE (Holt); co-editor, AN ANTHOLOGY OF NEW YORK POETS (Random House).

ISHMAEL REED: Author of the successful novels, THE FREE-LANCE PALLBEARERS (Bantam) and YELLOW-BACK RADIO BROKE DOWN (Doubleday); new books: MUMBO JUMBO and CONJURE (Massachusetts).

HARRIS SCHIFF: Editor of THE HARRIS REVIEW. Author of SECRET CLOUDS (Angel Hair) and EASY STREET (No Books).

PETER SCHJELDAHL: Editor, MOTHER Magazine; former associate editor, AVANT GARDE MAGAZINE; faculty, Yale; art and movie critic for the New York Sunday Times and ART INTERNATIONAL; books: WHITE COUNTRY (Corinth), AN ADVENTURE OF THE THOUGHT POLICE (Ferry Press), DREAMS (Angel Hair).

DAVID SHAPIRO: Author of JANUARY, POEMS FROM DEAL, MAN HOLDING AN ACOUSTIC PANEL (Holt), THE PAGE TURNER (Liverwright); co-editor, AN ANTHOLOGY OF NEW YORK POETS.

LORENZO THOMAS: Former editor, EAR Magazine; published widely in literary periodicals; author of FIT MUSIC and DRACULA (both Angel Hair); featured in several anthologies of new Black poetry; poet-in-residence at Texas Southern University, 1972-73; currently poet-in-residence at the Ethnic Arts Program of the Black Arts Center, Houston, Texas.

TONY TOWLE: Winner of the Frank O'Hara Foundation Award (1970); author of AFTER DINNER WE TAKE A DRIVE INTO THE NIGHT (Tibor de Nagy) and NORTH (Columbia University Press).

TOM VEITCH: Winner of the Big Table Award for poetry (1972). Poet and prose author, books include: THE LUIS ARMED STORY (Kiepenheuer), MY FATHER'S GOLDEN EYE (Adventures in Poetry), EAT THIS (Angel Hair).

DIANE WAKOSKI: Well-known poet and author of DISCREPANCIES AND APPARITIONS (Doubleday), INSIDE THE BLOOD FACTORY (Doubleday), THE MAGELLANIC CLOUDS (Black Sparrow), GREED (Black Sparrow), THE MOTORCYCLE BETRAYAL POEMS (Dutton) and DANCING ON THE GRAVE OF AN S.O.B. (Black Sparrow).

ANNE WALDMAN: Director of the Poetry Project (1968-present), Assistant Director (1966-68); co-editor Angel Hair Books; editor of THE WORLD ANTHOLOGY and ANOTHER WORLD (Bobbs-Merrill) - anthologies of writing from the Poetry Project; author of BABY BREAKDOWN (Bobbs-Merrill), GIANT NIGHT (Corinth), NO HASSLES (Kulchur), LIFE NOTES (Bobbs-Merrill).

LEWIS WARSH: Author of DREAMING AS ONE (Corinth), PART OF MY HISTORY (Coach House Press) and LONG DISTANCE (Ferry Press, England). Co-Editor of Angel Hair Books and the magazine The Boston Eagle.

TOM WEATHERLY: Taught "Contemporary Afro-American and Hispano-American Arts" at the Art Department of Rutgers University, as well as a creative writing course (1970). Poet-in-residence, Bishop College (Dallas, 1970-71) and at Morgan State (Baltimore); author of MAUMAU AMERICAN CANTOS (Corinth), and THUMBPRINT (Telegraph Books); co-editor of NATURAL PROCESS, an anthology of new Black writing (Hill and Wang).

CLARK WHELTON: Staff writer for the Village Voice; published articles in national magazines and free-lance writer for The New York Times and other newspapers; published SKYJACK (Tower Books) and is working on a book about white ethnic neighborhoods.

PHOTOS

- 1 - Anne Waldman, John Ashbery.
- 2 - Ron Padgett, Larry Fagin.
- 3 - Clark Coolidge.
- 4 - Vito Acconci and audience.  
(photographer: Simon B. Zamochnick)
- 5 - Maureen Owen. (photographer: Linda O'Brien Schjeldahl)
- 6 - Michael Brownstein.  
(photographer: Simon B. Zamochnick)
- 7 - Ed Friedman, Bernadette Mayer, Harold Rothbart.  
Lewis Warsh.  
(photographer: Shelley Lustig)
- 8 - Andrei Codrescu.
- 9 - Richard Brautigan.
- 10 - Ted Berrigan.
- 11 - Anne Waldman, Joel Oppenheimer, Diane DiPrima.  
(photographer: Simon B. Zamochnick)
- 12 - John Giorno.  
William Burroughs.  
Brion Gysin and Allen Ginsberg.  
(photographer: Gianfranco Mantegna)

COVER DRAWING by George Schneeman.

## POETS COMMENT ON THE POETRY PROJECT

"I think the Poetry Project at St. Mark's is a model of what a poetry project should be. It has made a real contribution to the cultural life of New York. The openness, the energy, and the talent and hard work with which things are done there seems to me to be exemplary."

- Kenneth Koch

"It is always hard, and to some ears ridiculous, to talk of poetry being 'necessary', but the poetry project has demonstrated amply that it is the only large, free, truly open center for poets and poetry in the state, and very possibly in the whole country. Young poets know it and come to it, us 'old guys' are pleased to help as we can because it is so dedicated to the cause of poetry."

- Joel Oppenheimer

"Poetry is life and life without poetry is hell made to order by bureaucrats....Get the money from hell if you have to but keep those writing projects going."

- David Ignatow

"The Poetry Project is, to my knowledge, the most solid, productive, various, creative and worthwhile organization of its type in this country. No other project offers such a variety of performances by the famous and unknown, no other project offers year-round free writing workshops, no other project publishes such a voluminous magazine. The fact that these programs have attracted national attention should serve as an index to their effectiveness."

- Ron Padgett

"I find it one of the liveliest points of communication in the American poetry world. There is an incredible excitement to come to the church and read one's poems to the many other poets who congregate there, drawn to the church by its own energy and thrust."

- Donald Hall

"Poetry Project burns like hot red coal in New York's snow."

- Allen Ginsberg