

Contemporary writers/poets to read and perform in UCSD's New Writing Series: Spring 1998, April 9-May 22

April 6, 1998

Media Contact: Jan Jennings, (619) 822-1684, jjennings@ucsd.edu

CONTEMPORARY WRITERS/POETS TO READ AND PERFORM IN UCSD'S NEW WRITING SERIES:
SPRING 1998 APRIL 9-MAY 22

Contemporary writers of national and international acclaim will read from their works beginning April 9 and continuing through May 22 as part of the New Writing Series: Spring 1998 at the University of California, San Diego. The readings will be at 4:30 p.m. in the Visual Arts Facility Performance Space.

In conjunction with the series, a celebration of Poems for the Millennium, readings and performances by literary and performing artists, will be held at 3 p.m. April 19 in the Seuss Room of Geisel Library to commemorate the publication of the second volume of the anthology Poems for the Millennium: The University of California Book of Modern & Postmodern Poetry.

Also, a special performance by contemporary Japanese poet Yoshimasu Gozo and singer and performance artist Marilia will be given at 7 p.m. April 24 at the Center for Research in Computing and the Arts.

All events are free and open to the public.

Kicking off the writing series on April 9 will be Jay Wright, the author of poetry books including *Boleros* and *Selected Poems of Jay Wright*. Wright's work draws on American, African and African-American mythology and history.

Lydia Davis will read April 15. The recipient of awards from the Guggenheim Foundation and the Lila Wallace Foundation, Davis is the author of a novel, *The End of the Story*, and two collections of stories, *Break It Down* and *Almost No Memory*.

The April 19 Poems for the Millennium celebration will include readings and performances by Pierre Joris, Jerome Rothenberg, David Antin, Rac Armantrout, John Cayley, Michael Davidson, Hiromi Ito, George Lewis, Quincy Troupe and Bertram Turetzky. Rothenberg and Joris edited the anthology.

On April 22 Douglas Messerli and Joe Ross will read. Messerli is the founder of the literary press Sun & Moon, the author of several books of poetry and an ongoing work, *Structures of Destruction*. Ross recently moved to San Diego from Washington, D.C., where he was the literary editor for the *Washington Review*. His 10th book of poetry is forthcoming from Sun & Moon.

The April 24 performance by Yoshimasu and Marilia is being presented in collaboration with the UCSD Interarts Consortium. Yoshimasu often works to jazz or improvised accompaniment. Marilia has performed around the world, including with Butoh dance founder Kazuo Ohno.

Ed Roberson will read April 29. He won the 1994 Iowa Poetry Prize for his most recent book, *Voices Cast Out to Talk Us In*, establishing him as a major figure in contemporary African-American poetry.

John Woods and Jerome Rothenberg will present a session of creative translation and performance May 6. Woods will read from his ongoing translations of Arno Schmidt. Rothenberg will perform new translations from Pablo Picasso and Vítězslav Nezval, as well as older versions from Kurt Schwitters. Their readings are presented in cooperation with the PEN American Center's National Translation Month.

Concluding the series on May 22 will be John Cayley and Yang Lian. Poet Cayley is a spring quarter resident at UCSD. He is a poetry innovator and translator and disseminator of both the new and the newer Chinese poetry. Yang Lian, a key figure among the post-Mao poets who has expanded his writing while living outside of China, is a postmodern experimentalist of international stature.

The UCSD New Writing Series is sponsored by University Events, the Division of Arts and Humanities, the Archive for New Poetry and the Department of Literature.

(April 6, 1998)