

UCSD presents contemporary poets reading their work as part of the 'New Writing Series' beginning January 29

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UCSD PRESENTS CONTEMPORARY POETS READING THEIR WORK AS PART OF THE 'NEW WRITING SERIES' BEGINNING JANUARY 29

The "New Writing Series" at the University of California, San Diego, will present five contemporary writers who will read from their works beginning Jan. 29 and continuing through Feb. 19. All readings will be at 4:30 p.m. in the Visual Arts Facility Performance Space. They are free and open to the public.

The writers are Ruth Forman, Anselm Hollo, Karen Mac Cormack (cq), Steve McCaffery, and Hank Lazer.

The finale to the winter writing series will be graduate student readings and performances at 7 p.m. Feb. 26.

Forman is a Los Angeles writer, performer, and film maker. She became interested in blending poetry with film in 1991. Her first poetry-video project, *Poetry Should Ride the Bus*, won her first place at the 1992 East Bay Film & Video Festival. Her poetry with music was featured on *The United States of Poetry* soundtrack (1996) and the *Spearhead* album (1994). She will read on Jan. 29.

Originally from Finland, Hollo is considered by his contemporaries to be an important and prolific talent on the American poetry scene. Poet and National Public Radio commentator Andrei Codrescu writes: "I await Anselm Hollo's new poems with more eagerness than those of any other poet. His work is 'news that stays news,' a poetic gazette that is one of our time's most accurate neural readouts." Says poet Robert Creeley: "Thank God for his humor, else we'd all be dead." Hollo will read on Feb. 6.

Sharing the spotlight on Feb. 12 will be Mac Cormack and McCaffery. Born in Africa, Mac Cormack lives in Canada where she is an experimental poet, also pursuing video art and book production. Critic Marjorie Perloff writes: "In (Mac Cormack's) profound concern for the difference a word can make," she delivers a poetry "designed to reveal what continues to fascinate."

Also representing contemporary writing in Canada, McCaffery is considered by many of his colleagues to be one of the country's leading innovative poets and a significant figure in the interplay between theory and poetic practice. An active performance artist since the Toronto-based Four Horsemen performance group, McCaffery attempts to create work that interweaves philosophy, linguistics, humor, visual gesture, and profundity.

Both poet and critic, Lazer will read on Feb. 19. He published *Doublespace: Poems 1971-1989* and a two-volume critical work, *Opposing Poetries*. Writes Pulitzer Prize-winning poet David Ignatow: "(Lazer bridges) the chasm between language poetry and the traditional anecdotal and meditative poetry of the 'free form' mode...creating a language that both may be able to draw upon, each for its own purpose."

The UCSD New Writing Series is sponsored by University Events, the Literature Department, the Archive for New Poetry, and the Division of Arts and Humanities. For further information, call Special Collections at 534-1276.

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