

UCSD presents contemporary poets reading their works as part of the 'New Writing Series,' beginning October 16

October 4, 1996

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The "New Writing Series" at the University of California, San Diego will present seven contemporary writers who will read from their works beginning Oct. 16. All readings are free and open to the public.

The writers are David Meltzer, Jayne Cortez, Yehuda Amichai, Bob Perelman, Will Alexander, Susan Howe and Myung Mi Kim.

Meltzer is the author of many books of poetry and editor of anthologies, including those on Jewish mysticism, birth and death, the San Francisco poetry renaissance, and what he calls "the reading and writing of jazz." He will read at 4:30 p.m. Oct. 16 at the UCSD Visual Arts Facility Performance Space. Meltzer creates poetry that combines the mystical and mysterious with everyday experiences.

Poet performer Cortez will read at 4:30 p.m. Oct. 23 at the Visual Arts Facility Performance Space. She has worked for more than 30 years on what poet Jerome Rothenberg calls "precise and readily performed poetry of global dimensions." Of her experiments with multimedia and music, she writes: "By using music and technology I'm trying to extend the poet's role. It's the poetic use of music, the poetic use of technology, the poetic orchestration of it all."

A key figure in the creation of a new Hebrew poetry and language in the aftermath of World War II, Amichai will read at 7 p.m. Oct. 24 at the UCSD Cross Cultural Center. Amichai's English works are represented by a dozen titles, including *A Life of Poetry 1948-1994*. The Nation's Mark Rudman calls Amichai "one of the half-dozen leading poets in the world." Amichai's presentation is cosponsored by UCSD's Judaic Studies Department and Hillel San Diego, under arrangement with the B'nai B'rith Lecture Bureau. A reception for the poet will follow the reading.

Perelman, the author of 10 poetry books, most recently *Virtual Reality*, and two critical volumes, *The Trouble with Genius* and *The Marginalization of Poetry*, will read at 4:30 p.m. Nov. 1 at the Visual Arts Facility Performance Space. Described by writer John Ashbery as "one step ahead of all the poets under the sun," Perelman writes poems that are examinations of contemporary culture.

As a link to diverse movements such as surrealism and negritude, Alexander's writings over the past 15 years have included novels, poems, essays, tales, aphorisms, and indeterminate forms, mixed between the essay and the poem. His recent books include *Arcane Lavender Morals* and *Asia & Haiti*. Alexander will read at 4:30 p.m. Nov. 13 in the Visual Arts Facility Performance Space.

In San Diego to receive this year's Roy Harvey Pierce Prize for a distinguished poet/scholar, Howe writes poems inspired by Western history where she searches for "voices of the lost." She is the author of poetry books and the critical work, *My Emily Dickinson*. She will read at 4:30 p.m. Nov. 13 at the Visual Arts Facility Performance Space.

On Nov. 20 the Korean-American poet Myung Mi Kim will read at 4:30 p.m. at the Visual Arts Facility Performance Space. She is the author of complex poetry about which writer Michael Palmer has written: "(It) interrogates the radical and violent instability of our moment, asking where is the location of culture, where the site of self, selves, among others." Her third book, *Dura*, is forthcoming from Sun & Moon Press.

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

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