

First global anthology of 20th century poetry edited by UCSD professor Rothenberg; published by UC Press

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FIRST GLOBAL ANTHOLOGY OF 20TH CENTURY POETRY EDITED BY UCSD PROFESSOR ROTHENBERG; PUBLISHED BY UC PRESS

A monumental volume of experimental and modernist poetry, the first of two volumes described as "the first global anthology of 20th century poetry," has been published by the University of California Press in cooperation with the Archive for New Poetry at the University of California, San Diego.

Poems for the Millennium: The University of California Book of Modern & Post Modern Poetry was edited by internationally known poets Jerome Rothenberg, professor of literature and visual arts at UCSD, and Pierre Joris, associate professor of English at the State University of New York.

Unprecedented in its scope, both artistic and geographic, Poems for the Millennium is described by critic Marjorie Perloff as "a brilliant reconceptualization....that forces us to rethink what the poetic is and can be," and by poet Robert Creeley as a "brilliant revision in the most basic senses of all we'd thought was poetry of the 20th century." Poet Gary Snyder calls it "a sourcebook for the future."

Volume one of the projected two-volume set offers works by and commentary on individual poets including Mallarme, Stein, Rilke, Mayakovsky, Pound, Vallejo, Artaud, Cesaire, and Tsvetayeva, along with a focus on the most significant movements in poetry and the other arts: Futurism, Expressionism, Surrealism, Dada, Objectivism, and Negritude.

While the two volumes will span the years 1895 to 1995, volume one covers the period to the end of World War II. Among experiments it addresses are the attempts to develop a non-syntactic or abstract poetry; exploration of new languages and sub-languages long excluded by accepted literature; investigation of poetry/art interactions, in which the conventional boundaries between the arts break down; a return to the concept of poetry as a performance genre; an ongoing connection to related political and social movements, and an ethnopoetics-based reassessment of the total human past.

In addition to comprehensive commentaries by the two poet-editors, the volume contains manifestos, documents, quotations, and black and white photographs and illustrations.

David Antin, poet and professor emeritus in visual arts at UCSD, describes the first of the two volumes as a Handbook of Inventors and Inventions, or of Explorers and Discoveries, that opens up all sorts of pathways for poetry.

"This may be the only collection of modernist poetry," Antin continues, "that reveals its simultaneous connections to an archaic and ecological past as well as to a technological future, as it also wipes out rigid distinctions between poets and painters and sculptors and performers. It is above all a book of possibilities and invitations."

Editor Rothenberg is the author of more than 50 books of poetry and of six previous anthologies including the highly influential *Technicians of the Sacred*. He has been described by poet and editor Richard Kostelanetz as "the master anthologist of our time."

Kenneth Rexroth wrote of him. "Jerome Rothenberg is one of the truly contemporary American poets who has returned U.S. poetry to the mainstream of international modern literature....no one writing today has dug deeper into the roots of poetry."

Volume one of *Poems for the Millennium* is 800 pages, \$60 hard cover; \$24.95 paper. Rothenberg and Joris are currently working on volume two, which extends the global anthology to the present day.

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