



**August 21, 2008**

**For Immediate Release**

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### **Poetry Foundation Announces Fall 2008 Literary Series**

Chicago—The Poetry Foundation is happy to announce its 2008 Fall Literary Series. The upcoming schedule of public poetry events features poetry readings, staged performances, panel discussions, and lectures. Highlights include collaborations with the Art Institute, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and the Chicago Council on Global Affairs; a Silk Road Theatre Project production of the Mesopotamian epic *Gilgamesh*; and the 54th Annual Poetry Day, with Louise Glück.

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**Thursday, September 11, 6 pm**  
**Poetry Off the Shelf: Peter Gizzi**  
Ferguson Theater  
Columbia College  
600 South Michigan Avenue  
(enter on Harrison Street)  
Free admission

Peter Gizzi is the author of four critically acclaimed books: *The Outernationale*, *Some Values of Landscape and Weather*, *Artificial Heart*, and *Periplum and Other Poems 1987–92*. His honors include fellowships from the Rex Foundation, the Foundation for Contemporary Arts, the Howard Foundation, and the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. He is on the faculty at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and this fall is in residence at the University of Iowa Writers' Workshop.

Presented with Columbia College

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**Tuesday, September 23, 6 pm**  
**Poetry Off the Shelf: Simon Armitage & Robin Robertson**  
Rubloff Auditorium  
Loyola University Chicago

25 East Pearson Street  
Free admission

With the publication of *Zoom!* in 1989, Simon Armitage established himself as a leading voice of the group of poets dubbed “The New Generation.” He has gone on to publish nearly a dozen collections of poetry, most recently *The Universal Home Doctor* (2002) and *Tyrannosaurus Rex Versus the Corduroy Kid* (2006), which will be published in the United States by Knopf this fall.

Robin Robertson is from the northeast coast of Scotland and now lives in London, where he serves as poetry editor for the publisher Jonathan Cape. His latest collection, *Swithering*, won the Forward Prize and the Scottish Arts Council Poetry Award, and was shortlisted for the T.S. Eliot Prize in 2006.

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**Saturday, September 27, 12 noon & 2 pm**  
**Art Beyond Borders: C.K. Williams & Marilyn Nelson**  
Fullerton Hall  
Art Institute of Chicago  
111 South Michigan Avenue  
Free admission

360 Degrees: Art Beyond Borders brings together Chicago’s leading cultural institutions—the Art Institute of Chicago, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Poetry Foundation, and the Chicago Council on Global Affairs—to celebrate cultural, social, and political life around the world. Leading museum directors, renowned musicians, poets from around the world, and cultural leaders explore the role of art and culture in our ever-shrinking globe.

C.K. Williams is the author of ten books of poetry, the most recent of which is *Collected Poems* (2006). His book *The Singing* won the National Book Award for 2003. His previous book, *Repair*, was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 2000, as well as the Los Angeles Times Book Award.

Three times a finalist for the National Book Award and the recipient of fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts, Marilyn Nelson is the author or translator of 12 books, including *The Homeplace*, *The Fields of Praise: New and Selected Poems*, and *The Cachoeira Tales and Other Poems*.

Co-sponsored with the Art Institute of Chicago

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**Thursday, October 9, 6 pm**  
**Art Beyond Borders: Adam Zagajewski**

Fullerton Hall  
Art Institute of Chicago  
111 South Michigan Avenue  
Free admission

Adam Zagajewski was born in the largely Polish city of Lvov in 1945, but his family was forcibly relocated by the Soviet Union, a history lyrically captured in his poem “To Go to Lvov.” He rose to prominence in the early 1970s as one of the major voices of the Generation of ’68, later known as the Polish New Wave.

Co-sponsored with the Art Institute of Chicago

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**Poetry on Stage: Silk Road Theatre Project Presents Gilgamesh  
TWO PERFORMANCES**

Saturday, October 11, 2 pm  
Breasted Hall  
The Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago  
1155 East 58th Street

Saturday, November 1, 6 pm  
Museum of Contemporary Art  
220 East Chicago Avenue

Admission \$15. Please call 312.494.9509 or visit  
[www.chfestival.org](http://www.chfestival.org).

The great Mesopotamian epic, the veritable ur-tale, is reimagined as a powerful verse play by Pulitzer Prize-winning poet and New York University professor Yusef Komunyakaa in collaboration with dramaturge Chad Gracia. Infused with powerful drama and human longing, the play will be brought to life by Chicago’s celebrated Silk Road Theatre Project under the direction of Jennifer Shook. Following the performance, Komunyakaa and Gracia will engage the audience in discussion.

For tickets to this and other Chicago Humanities Festival events, please call 312-494-9509 or visit [www.chfestival.org](http://www.chfestival.org). Students and teachers with valid ID are eligible for free tickets. Tickets go on sale to CHF members on September 2. General public sales begin on September 15.

Cosponsored with the Chicago Humanities Festival

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**Tuesday, October 21, 6 pm**

**54th Annual Poetry Day: Louise Glück**

Cindy Pritzker Auditorium  
Harold Washington Library Center  
400 South State Street  
Free admission

A Pulitzer Prize winner and former U.S. Poet Laureate, Louise Glück grew up on Long Island and attended Sarah Lawrence College and Columbia University. Her debut collection, *Firstborn*, appeared in 1968. *The Triumph of Achilles* won the National Book Critics Circle Award, the Boston Globe Literary Press Award, and the Poetry Society of America's Melville Cane Award. *Proofs and Theories: Essays on Poetry* won the PEN/Martha Albrand Nonfiction Award. Winner of the Bollingen and Bobbitt prizes, among many other honors, she has published a dozen collections, including *The Wild Iris*, *Vita Nova*, and *The Seven Ages*. Her latest book, *Averno*, was a finalist for the National Book Award.

Now in its 54th year, Poetry Day is one of the oldest and most distinguished reading series in the country. Inaugurated by Robert Frost, Poetry Day has featured such poets as T.S. Eliot, Marianne Moore, Elizabeth Bishop, W.H. Auden, Seamus Heaney, and Adrienne Rich.

Co-sponsored with the Chicago Public Library

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**Saturday, November 1, 12:30 pm**

**Poetry Off the Shelf: Anne Carson: Cassandra Floatcan**

Cindy Pritzker Auditorium  
Harold Washington Library Center  
400 South State Street  
Admission \$5. Please call 312.494.9509 or visit  
[www.chfestival.org](http://www.chfestival.org).

The distinguished poet, translator, MacArthur Fellow, and professor of classics and comparative literature at the University of Michigan will perform her haunted and haunting poem/essay about the problems of prophecy (prescient Cassandra at the threshold of Agamemnon's home on the eve of his murder) and translation (how to translate her cries of alarm and grief into language that can be understood and acted upon) in a performance flecked with the architectural demolition imagery of Gordon Matta-Clark. Carson's poetry collections include *Decreation*, *Autobiography of Red*, *Men in the Off Hours*, and *The Beauty of the Husband*.

Co-sponsored with the Chicago Humanities Festival

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**Sunday, November 2, 3:30 pm**  
**Poetry Off the Shelf: Mark Doty & Achy Obejas: Queer Lyrics**  
Cindy Pritzker Auditorium  
Harold Washington Library Center  
400 South State Street  
Admission \$5. Please call 312.494.9509 or go to  
[www.chfestival.org](http://www.chfestival.org).

Lambda Literary Award–winning authors Mark Doty and Achy Obejas will read from and discuss their latest work. Doty, the celebrated poet and memoirist, has written movingly on love and loss in modern gay life. Obejas, an esteemed Chicago-based journalist, novelist, and translator, writes about the tension between public identity and private experience in America and her native Cuba. Both will address the question of how writers grapple with questions of social, political, and cultural resonance surrounding the LGBTQ experience. C.C. Carter, Lambda Literary Finalist for Best Lesbian Poetry and director of community and cultural programming for the Center on Halsted, will moderate.

Co-sponsored with the Chicago Humanities Festival

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**Thursday, November 20, 6 pm**  
**Art Beyond Borders: Paul Muldoon**  
Fullerton Hall  
Art Institute of Chicago  
111 South Michigan Avenue  
Free admission

Paul Muldoon was born in 1951 in County Armagh, Northern Ireland, and educated in Armagh and at the Queen's University of Belfast. Since 1987 he has lived in the United States, where he is now Howard G. B. Clark '21 Professor in the Humanities at Princeton University and poetry editor at *The New Yorker*. Among his many books of poetry are *Moy Sand and Gravel*, for which he won the 2003 Pulitzer Prize; *Horse Latitudes*; and *The End of the Poem*, a collection of his Oxford lectures.

Co-sponsored with the Art Institute of Chicago

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### **About the Poetry Foundation**

The Poetry Foundation, publisher of *Poetry* magazine and one of the largest literary organizations in the world, exists to discover and celebrate the best poetry and to place it before the largest possible audience. The Poetry Foundation seeks to be a leader in shaping a receptive climate for poetry by developing new audiences, creating new avenues for delivery, and encouraging new kinds of poetry through innovative literary prizes and programs.

For more information, please visit [www.poetryfoundation.org](http://www.poetryfoundation.org).