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MONET TO MALLARME

A Poetry Society of America Series

NEW YORK, NEW YORK (May 2012) – This month, the Poetry Society of America, the nation’s oldest poetry organization, will launch Monet to Mallarmé, a salon series at The New York Botanical Garden presenting readings by contemporary poets and scholars of their favorite French Symbolist poetry.

This stunning tribute to French Impressionist Claude Monet showcases poets, scholars, and translators over the course of a six-event series. The first event in the series (Saturday, May 19 at 4PM) and the last in the series (Saturday, October 20th at 4PM) will explore the work of all four poets, Baudelaire, Rimbaud, Verlaine, and Mallarmé. The four events in between will each focus on one of them in homage to the artistic and literary movement they each helped pioneer over 150 years ago.

The series will feature the following: Mary Ann Caws, Ken Chen, Timothy Donnelly, Thomas Sayers Ellis, Marilyn Hacker, Richard Howard, Vincent Katz, Dr. John Keene, Paul Legault, Nancy Milford, Susan Mitchell, Laila Pedro, Patrick Philips, Rowan Ricardo Phillips, Mark Polizzotti, Charles Raus, Elena Rivera, Metta Sama, Rosanna Warren, and Bill Zavatsky.

The series is co-presented by The New York Botanical Garden in conjunction with their Monet’s Garden exhibition. The readings are included with the All Garden pass.

Charles Baudelaire was born in 1821. His most famous work is his sequence of poems Les Fleurs du Mal. He was also a distinguished essayist and art critic and a great champion and translator of Edgar Allan Poe. Baudelaire's highly original style of prose-poetry influenced Verlaine, Rimbaud, Mallarmé, and many others. His vast body of work includes Les paradis artificiels (1860), Réflexions sur Quelques-uns de mes Contemporains (1861), and Le Peintre de la Vie Moderne (1863).

Arthur Rimbaud was born in 1854 and produced his best known works while still in his late teens; he was described by Victor Hugo at the time as "an infant Shakespeare." His poetry influenced the Dadaists and Surrealists; and later writers adopted not only some of his themes, but also his inventive use of form and language. He was known to have been a libertine and a restless soul, travelling extensively on three continents before his death from cancer just after his 37th birthday. His many collections of poetry include Proses Évangéliques (1872), and Illuminations (1874).

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Paul Verlaine was born in 1844 and is considered one of the greatest representatives of the fin de siècle in international and French poetry. As a young boy, Verlaine was inspired by Charles Baudelaire's Les Fleurs du Mal, and in 1866, he published his first book of poetry, Poèmes saturniens. Verlaine’s personal experiences, including torrid affairs, imprisonment, and religious revelations, were invaluable to his poetry. Chair (1896) and Invectives (1896) were Verlaine’s last two published works.

Stéphane Mallarmé, was born in 1842. His work anticipated and inspired several revolutionary artistic schools of the early 20th century, such as Dadaism, Surrealism, and Futurism. Mallarmé's poetry has been the inspiration for several musical pieces, notably Claude Debussy's Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune (1894), a free interpretation of Mallarmé's poem L'après-midi d'un faune (1876). His last completed works of poetry were Divagations (1897) and Un coup de dés jamais n'abolira le hasard (1897).

The Poetry Society of America, the nation’s oldest poetry organization, was founded in 1910. Its mission is to build a larger and more diverse audience for poetry, to encourage a deeper appreciation of the vitality and breadth of poetry in the cultural conversation, and to place poetry at the crossroads of American life. For more information, visit www.poetrysociety.org.

An unforgettable departure from the everyday, The New York Botanical Garden is America’s premier urban garden. Its special exhibitions, seasonal programs, and engaging activities inspire visitors of every age and interest. The Botanical Garden is an ever-changing living museum, and a showplace of natural beauty and wonder. In the setting of this season’s Monet’s Garden exhibition, visitors will witness how nature inspired Claude Monet and how he developed his art through his passion for gardening. For more information, visit nybg.org or call 718.817.8700.

Programs Schedule

New York, NY
Co-sponsored by the New York Botanical Garden

Saturday, May 19, 4:00pm
The French Symbolist Poets (Introduction)
Rosanna Warren, Bill Zavatsky, Mark Polizzotti, and Metta Sama

Saturday, June 9, 4:00pm
Rimbaud
Elena Rivera, Vincent Katz, and David Shapiro

Saturday July 14, 4:00pm
Baudelaire
Richard Howard, Rowan Ricardo Phillips, and Nancy Milford

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Poetry Society of America 15 Gramercy Park S, New York, NY 10003 poetrysociety.org
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Saturday, August 11, 4:00pm  
Mallarmé  
**Mary Ann Caws, Laila Pedro, Paul Legault** and **Susan Mitchell**  

Saturday, September 8, 4:00pm  
Verlaine  
**John Keene, Charles Rau** and **Patrick Phillips**  

Saturday, October 20, 4:00pm  
The French Symbolist Poets (Conclusion)  
**Mary Ann Caws, Richard Howard, Marilyn Hacker, Ken Chen,** and **Timothy Donnelly**  

Visit [poetrysociety.org](http://poetrysociety.org) for more information.  

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