

3-26-2004

## Spring 2004 New Writing Series

English Department

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# THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS/DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES COMMITTEE GRANT APPLICATION

PROVIDE 10 (TEN) COPIES, INCLUDING THE ORIGINAL.  
PLEASE PLACE A COPY OF THIS COVER SHEET ON TOP OF EACH COPY

I.	Applicant/Organization: <u>New Writing Series / ENG DEPT</u>
II. a.	Responsible Organization Officer: <u>STEVE EVANS</u>
b.	Title: <u>ASSISTANT PROFESSOR of ENGLISH, COORDINATOR, NEW WRITING SERIES</u>
c.	Campus Address (include EMail and Telephone): <u>215 Neville Hall / First Class / 1-3809</u>
III.	Summary of program requiring funding (title; featured artist(s); speaker(s); scheduled date (s):  <u>New Writing Series (see attached)</u>
Expand in fuller detail, a supporting statement with <u>detailed, itemized budget</u> . Funding for current application is contingent upon submission of detailed budget and attendance report for any previous years' grants.	
IV. a.	Total funding required for program: <span style="float: right;">\$ <u>13,907</u></span>
b.	Amount committed by applicant organization: <span style="float: right;">\$ <u>7,907.</u></span>
c.	Amount committed by <span style="float: right;">\$</span>
d.	Amount requested from other funding sources <span style="float: right;">\$</span>
e.	Amount requested of Cultural Affairs/DLS Committee: <span style="float: right;">\$ <u>6,000.</u></span>
Signature of responsible organization officer/date: <u>Steve Evans</u> <span style="float: right;"><u>March 26, 2004</u></span>	
SIGNATURE <span style="float: right;">DATE</span>	

SEND COMPLETED APPLICATION TO:

CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
C/O PRESIDENT'S OFFICE  
200 ALUMNI HALL, CAMPUS

\$4,000

NEW WRITING SERIES • SPRING 2004

12 FEB John Wilkinson & Bill Luoma  
26 FEB Poets' Profiles - NWS Film Screening featuring Rosmarie Waldrop's work  
18 MAR Anita Skeen  
25 MAR Karen Mac Cormack & Joshua Clover  
01 APR Stephen Rodefer  
08 APR Rosa Alcalá & Keith Waldrop  
22 APR Mini-festival featuring  
04:30pm Jackson Mac Clow & Anne Tardos  
08:00pm Christian Bök



Dear Members of the Cultural Affairs Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the English Department and the National Poetry Foundation to request the Committee's assistance in continuing the New Writing Series established in the spring of 2000. The \$6000 I am requesting for the spring of 2004 represents less than one half of the Series' operating budget of approximately \$13,907 for the semester (please see attached budget; reception costs are not factored into the quoted figure). The remainder of the required funding will be provided by the English Department, largely through the Lloyd H. Elliott fund.

Committee members will be familiar with the primary objectives of the New Writing Series, which are (i) to make contemporary poetry a valued part of the cultural life at the University of Maine, (ii) to broaden the University's local, national, and international reputation as a site of vibrant cultural exchange and creativity, and (iii) to cultivate links within the University as well as between the University and area secondary schools that foster imaginative approaches to thinking about contemporary poetry.

Recently the Series has benefited from a very well made two minute television feature produced by the UMaine Marketing Department and aired during a break in a closely-watched hockey game against rival UNH. This television spot joins the print coverage the Series has received in the past in helping to get the word out that UMaine is a magnet for literary innovation. In the national context, we now have a credible claim to be among the top four or five reading series in the country, with our principal competition coming from programs centered in major metropolitan areas and/or affiliated with much better funded institutions.

The Spring 2004 Series began on 12 February 2004 and will comprise eight events involving eleven visiting writers by the time it concludes on 22 April. The lineup includes the British poet and social worker John Wilkinson; two younger Bay Area writers, the poet and translator Bill Luoma and poet, activist, and cultural journalist Joshua Clover; Canadian poet and feminist writer Karen Mac Cormack; the Providence-based poet, publisher, and translator Keith Waldrop; the lesbian poet, novelist, and essayist Anita Skeen; emerging bilingual poet and translator Rosa Alcalá; Jackson Mac Low, the legendary Fluxus poet and member of the experimental musical and literary cohort around John Cage; the multilingual poet and performance artist Anne Tardos; Stephen Rodefer, a celebrated poet and artist who made his reputation in California in the 1980s before emigrating to Paris in the past decade; and Christian Bök, like Mac Cormack a Toronto-based writer, who in addition to writing some of the most startlingly innovative texts of the past ten years (*Crystallography*, *Eunoia*) has also invented

languages for television programs by Gene Roddenberry and Peter Benchley and devoted scholarly tracts to the whimsical literary movement known as "pataphysics."

Of particular interest to the Committee will be the series of filmed "Poet Profiles" that we piloted in the fall semester of 2003 and are continuing in the new year. In this series, the visiting poets spend time reading from and discussing their work for the camera of locally-based documentary filmmaker Jim Sharkey. Mr. Sharkey then edits the footage into short films (25-40 minutes) that are appropriate for airing on local public access stations in Maine as well as in area high schools and that may also turn out to be of interest to local libraries as well as collections focusing on contemporary poetry throughout the country. Though this program is still in its trial phase, the potentials for community outreach are significant and exciting. The films essentially take the time-based campus visits—so generously supported by this Committee—and extends them into situations that a conventional visit/reading could not reach, thus further broadening the audience for UMaine-supported poetry in the state and across the country.

In the following pages I have included a full schedule of events, detailed expense estimates, and thumbnail bio-bibliographical descriptions of Series participants. If I can provide any further information to the Committee, I hope you will not hesitate to contact me.



Steve Evans

Assistant Professor of English  
Coordinator of the New Writing Series  
581-3809

New Writing Series  
Spring 2004  
Budget

Event Expenses	Reading Date	Honorarium	Travel	From	Mode	Accom	Meals	Att
Bill Luoma	12-Feb	\$500	\$494	San Francisco	Air	\$0	119	50
John Wilkinson	12-Feb	\$500	\$503	New York City	Air	\$90	119	
Poet Profiles	26-Feb	\$0	\$0			\$0	192	30
Anita Skeen	18-Mar	\$500	\$300	Boston	Rental Car	\$104	69	30
Karen Mac Cormack	25-Mar	\$500	\$846	Toronto	Air	\$208	100	45
Joshua Clover	25-Mar	\$500	\$722	San Francisco	Air	\$156	100	
Stephen Rodefer	1-Apr	\$500	\$550	New York City	Air	\$208	100	
Rosa Alcalá	8-Apr	\$500	\$454	Buffalo	Air	\$104	100	
Keith Waldrop	8-Apr	\$500	\$100	Providence	Bus	\$104	100	
Jackson Mac Low	22-Apr	\$500	\$350	New York City	Rental Car	\$104	100	
Anne Tardos	22-Apr	\$500	\$350	New York City	Rental Car	\$104	100	
Christian Bök	22-Apr	\$500	\$750	Toronto	Air	\$104	100	
		<b>\$5,500</b>	<b>\$5,419</b>			<b>1286</b>	<b>1299</b>	
<b>Fixed Expenses</b>								
Agent	Service	Expense	Charged	Note				
Staples	broadside paper	\$23.98	3/1/04	250 sheets				
Sam's Club	DV tapes	\$52.86	3/1/04	16 tapes				
MaJo Kaleshian	Poster Design	\$225						
Printer	Poster Printing	\$150		100 posters				
Marketing Dept	Spring Videotaping	\$250		\$35 per event				
Pulp & Paper	Soderberg Rental	\$350		\$50 per event				
Folk Films	Poet Profiles	\$550		\$50 per poet				
Folk Films	Materials	\$100		vhs dupes, cases				
		<b>\$1,701.84</b>						
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>								
Honoraria		\$5,500						
Travel		\$5,419						
Accommodation		\$1,286						
Fixed		\$1,702						
		<b>\$13,907</b>						

12 February 2004

Fullbright Distinguished Scholar **John Wilkinson** was born in London in 1953 and grew up in Cornwall and Devon. He read English at Cambridge, passed a year at Harvard working on the poetry of John Wieners, and thereafter trained as a psychiatric nurse. Perhaps his poetry at times reflects the occupational hazards of the East London and City Health Authority where Wilkinson is Head of Mental Health and Assistant Director of Public Health. Barque Press recently collected his early writing in *Oort's Cloud* (1999), while *Flung Clear* (Parataxis 1994), *Proud Flesh* (Délires and Equofinality 1986) and *Clinical Notes* (Délires 1980) make available his other chapbooks. Salt Press published *Contrivances* in 2003.

**Bill Luoma** was born in San Francisco in 1960. He attended De Anza Jr. College and earned an associate degree in chemistry, which he put to use performing QA tests on the components of nuclear missiles. He has a BA from UC San Diego, where he studied writing, classics and comparative literature and a BS in Computer Science from the University of Hawaii. He is currently pursuing a master's degree in computer science, focusing on multimedia information retrieval and simple metadata frameworks. His work spans narrative autobiography, lyric poetry, visual poetry, and sound poetry. He is a member of the subpress collective thru which he recently edited and published Scott Bentley's *The Occasional Tables*. Luoma has worked as technical writer and programmer in the computer industry. He currently lives in Oakland, California. Among Luoma's publications are *Works & Days*, *Western Love*, *Swoon Rocket*, and *My Trip to New York City*. His "PeaceNick" random media server program can be accessed at <http://jefferson.village.virginia.edu/~luoma>.

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18 March 2004

**Anita Skeen** was born in 1946 and grew up in West Virginia. She graduated from Concord College in Athens, West Virginia, and received her graduate degrees from Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio. She is Professor of English and Director of the Residential Option in Arts and Letters Program at Michigan State University, and teaches Creative Writing, Women's Studies, and Canadian Studies. Prior to arriving at Michigan State, she was on the faculty of the English Department and MFA Program at Wichita State University. While at WSU, Skeen co-founded the Kay Closson Women Writing Series. The series, presented annually by the WSU Center for Women's Studies since 1981, is now known as the Words By Women Series. She is also Director of the Creative Arts Festival and the Fall Writing Series at Ghost Ranch in Abiquiu, New Mexico.

Skeen is the author of four volumes of poetry: *The Resurrection of the Animals* (MSU Press, 2002); *Each Hand a Map* (Naiad Press, Inc., 1986); *Outside the Fold, Outside the Frame* (MSU Press, 1999); and *Portraits*. Her poetry, short fiction, and essays have appeared in numerous literary magazines and anthologies. She is currently completing a new volume of poetry, a collection of short stories, and a first novel, *Minor Chords*.

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25 March 2004

**Joshua Clover** is an Associate Professor of Poetry and Poetics in the Dept of English at UC Davis. His publications include the poetry volume *Madonna anno domini* (recipient of the prestigious Walt Whitman Award in 1996) and a volume for the British Film Institute on film *The Matrix* and political economy, as well as extensive writings on popular music in venues such as the *Village Voice* and *Spin*. Much of his critical work concerns the intersection found in the title of his essay "The Poetics of Urbanism," and in the relations of modernist formalism and revolution. Particular interests include the accounts of urban modernity in Walter Benjamin and the Frankfurt School, as well as the unitary urbanism of Guy Debord and the Situationist International.

Clover programs the reading series for the English Department at the University of California at Davis. His most recent writing on music includes an essay on Edith Piaf, Kurt Cobain, and "Girl From Ipanema" in *kitchensink* magazine. His poems have appeared in many literary magazines—including *Agni*, *American Poetry Review*, *Denver Quarterly*, *The Iowa Review*, *Threepenny Review*, and *ZYZZYVA*—and have been nominated three times for the Pushcart Prize. His poem "El Periferico, or Sleep" won a Pushcart Prize, and "The map room" was selected by James Tate to appear in *Best American Poetry 1997*.

**Karen Mac Cormack** is the author of thirteen books (twelve of which are poetry titles), including *Quill Driver* (Nightwood Editions, 1989), *Quirks & Quillets* (Chax Press, 1991), *Marine Snow* (ECW Press, 1995), *Multiplex* [with American poet Ron Silliman] (Wild Honey Press, 1998), *At Issue* (Coach House Books, 2001) and most recently *Vanity Release* (Zasterle Press, Canary Islands, 2003). Her collaborations include *FIT TO PRINT* (Coach House Press/West House Books, 1998) with British poet Alan Halsey, and *From A Middle* (housepress, 2002) with Steve McCaffery. A section from her polybiographical prose work *Implexures* appeared as a chap-book from housepress in 2001.

A contributing editor to *Avec* from 1989 to 1995, as of 2002 she is a contributing editor to the Canadian journal *QSQ*. Her work has been published (in print, online, and in translation) in North America, England, France, Ireland, Portugal, Sweden, Australia, Japan, and Belgium, and in anthologies in the USA, Canada, and England.

Advisory editor to the Centre Interdisciplinaire de Poétique Appliquée, Université de Liège, Belgium since 2000, and an advisor to the North American Centre for Interdisciplinary Poetics as of 2001, she was also Writer-in-Residence at the University of Western Ontario, London (2000-2001) and Visiting Writer-in-Residence at the University of Cape Town, South Africa in 2002.

*Implexures* (volume one of what is an ongoing work) was co-published in 2003 through Chax Press (Tucson, USA) and West House Books (Sheffield, UK). She lives in Toronto.



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1 April 2004

**Stephen Rodefer** is the author of many collections of poetry, including *Left Under a Cloud* (1999), *Answer to Doctor Agathon* (1995), *Erasers* (1994), *Leaving* (1992), *Emergency Measures* (1987), *Four Lectures* (1977), and *The Knife* (1965). He has been associated with the Language School Poets and was a student of Charles Olson. He has also taught at San Francisco State University, University of New Mexico-Albuquerque, University of California at San Diego, and Cambridge University in England. At present he lives in Paris.

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8 April 2004

**Rosa Alcalá** is a young bi-lingual writer and translator who is completing her PhD at SUNY Buffalo after taking her MFA in the Brown Creative Writing Program. A first chapbook, *Some Maritime Disasters This Century*, appeared in 2003 from Belladonna Books in New York. She has translated Lourdes Vázquez's *Bestiary* and is completing a book entitled *Spit Temple: Cecilia Vicuña & the Performance of Poetry*, which is slated to be published by Coach House Press next year.

**Keith Waldrop's** recent books include *The House Seen from Nowhere* (Litmus Press), *Haunt* (Instance Press), the trilogy: *The Locality Principle*, *The Silhouette of the Bridge* (America Award, 1997) and *Semiramis, If I Remember* (Avec Books), *Well Well Reality* (with Rosmarie Waldrop, Post-Apollo Press), and the novel, *Light while there Is Light* (Sun & Moon). He has translated, among others, Anne-Marie Albiach, Claude Royet-Journoud, Paol Keineg, Dominique Fourcade, Pascal Quignard, and Jean Grosjean. He teaches at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, and is co-editor of Burning Deck Press.

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22 April 2004 — First Event

**Jackson Mac Low**, winner of the Wallace Stevens Award given in recognition for his lifetime achievement by the Academy of American Poets, was born in Chicago on September 12, 1922. He is a poet and composer, and a writer of performance pieces, essays, plays, and radio works. He is also a painter and multimedia performance artist, often with his wife, Anne Tardos. He is the author of twenty-six books, and his works have been published in many anthologies and periodicals as well as read publicly, exhibited, performed, and broadcast in North America, Europe, and New Zealand. Mac Low's recent publications include *Two Plays: The Marrying Maiden and Verdurous Sanguinaria* (Green Integer Books, 1999), *20 Forties* (Zasterle Press, 1999), *Barnesbook* (1996), *42 Merzgedichte in Memoriam Kurt Schwitters* (1994), *Pieces o' Six: Thirty-three Poems in Prose* (1992), and *Twenties: 100 Poems* (1991), as well as the compact disc *Open Secrets* (1993), comprising eight works performed by Anne Tardos, Mac Low, and seven instrumentalists.

Educated at the University of Chicago and Brooklyn College, he has taught at many schools, notably the Mannes School of Music (1966) and New York University (1966-73). In recent years he has taught creative writing and lectured at SUNY-Albany, SUNY-Binghamton, Temple, UC-San Diego, Naropa Institute, Schule für Dichtung in Wien (Vienna), Bard College, and Brown University. His previous awards include fellowships and grants from the Creative Artists Public Service Program, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Guggenheim Foundation, PEN, and the New York Foundation for the Arts. Jackson Mac Low lives in New York City with his wife.

**Anne Tardos**, poet, visual artist, and composer, was born in Cannes, France. She grew up in Paris and moved twice in her youth—once to Budapest, where she learned Hungarian, and then to Vienna, where she learned German but attended a French high school. In 1966 she moved to the United States. Tardos is the author of the multilingual performance work *Among Men*, which was produced by the West German Radio, WDR, in Cologne. Her books of polylingual poems and graphics are *The Dik-dik's Solitude: New and Selected Works* (Granary Books, 2002), *Uxudo* (1999), *Mayg-shem Fish* (1995), and *Cat Licked the Garlic* (1992). Tardos currently lives and works in New York with her husband and frequent collaborator, Jackson Mac Low.

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22 April 2004 — Second Event

**Christian Bök's** academic interests include Canadian Literature, Contemporary Poetry, and Contemporary Theory. Bök is the author of *Pataphysics: The Poetics of an Imaginary Science* (Northwestern University Press, 2002), a book about avant-garde movements inspired by the work of Alfred Jarry. Bök has also written two books of poetry: *Eunoia* (Coach House Books, 2002), the avant-garde bestseller, which has won the Griffin Prize for Poetic Excellence (2002); plus *Crystallography* (Coach House Press, 1994), a pataphysical encyclopedia nominated for the Gerald Lampert Award for Best Poetic Debut. Bök has published numerous, academic articles in his areas of interest, and he is an active member of the literary community in Toronto.

He has created artificial languages for two television shows: Gene Roddenberry's *Earth: Final Conflict* and Peter Benchley's *Amazon*. He has also earned many accolades for his performances of sound poetry (particularly the *Ursonate* by Kurt Schwitters). His conceptual artworks (which include books built out of Rubik cubes and Lego bricks) have appeared at the Marianne Boesky Gallery in New York City as part of the exhibit *Poetry Plastique*.

Christian Bök has been a contractual Professor of English who teaches topics in Canadian Literature at the University of Toronto for the past three years. This fall he joins the faculty at the University of Calgary.