

3-27-2002

## 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: NEW WRITING SERIES

II. a. Responsible Organization Officer: STEVEN R. EVANS

b. Title: ASST. PROFESSOR, ENGLISH

c. Campus Address (include EMail and Telephone): 215 NEVILLE (581-3809)

III. Summary of program requiring funding (title; featured artist(s); speaker(s); scheduled date (s):

**14 February David Antin**  
**21 February Askia Touré**  
**28 February Jennifer Anna Gosetti & Michael Alpert**  
**28 March ssipsis & James Stevens**  
**03 April Charles Bernstein - Wednesday reading**  
**11 April Nicole Brossard**  
**18 April Rae Armantrout**  
**25 April Kathleen Ellis & Candice Stover**  
**09 May Maine & Stolen Island Reviews**

Expand in fuller detail, a supporting statement with detailed, itemized budget. 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: ..... > 10,577  
 b. Amount committed by applicant organization: ..... > 5,077  
 c. Amount committed by/requested of (please indicate which) other funding sources: ..... > 500  
 d. Amount requested of Cultural Affairs/DLS Committee: ..... > 5000

Signature of responsible organization officer/date: \_\_\_\_\_

Steven R. Evans  
SIGNATURE

3-27-07  
DATE

SPACE BELOW FOR COMMITTEE USE:

\$5,000

SEND COMPLETED APPLICATION TO: CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
C/O PRESIDENT'S OFFICE  
200 ALUMNI HALL

To: Cultural Affairs/Distinguished Lecture Series Committee  
From: Steven Evans, Asst. Professor of English  
Re: UMaine New Writing Series

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 **\$5000** I am requesting for the spring semester of 2002 represents less than one half of the Series's operating budget (approximately \$10,580, not including social events); the remainder of the required funding will be provided by the English Department's Lloyd H. Elliott fund and by several small contributions made by other departments.

The primary objectives of the New Writing Series are (i) to make contemporary poetry a regular and 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.

The programming for the spring semester began in January and consists of nine events (six of which I am seeking the Committee's support for). The Series is fortunate to be hosting a diverse array of writers from the African American community (Askia Touré), the Native American community (ssipsis and James Stevens), the gay community (James Stevens), the Francophone community (Nicole Brossard), the Jewish community (David Antin and Charles Bernstein), along with members of our University community (Michael Alpert, Jennifer Anna Gosetti, Kathleen Ellis) and vital figures from the State (Candice Stover) as well as from across the country (Rae Armantrout). The New Writing Series is an instrument not just for learning about contemporary poetry, but also for significantly diversifying the kinds of voices heard on this campus.

If I may, I would like briefly to address some of the concerns that the Committee articulated in the context of providing generous support for the Series last fall. I do so, of course, out of great respect for and gratitude toward the Committee for its support over the past several years.

The first thing longstanding members of the Committee will note is that I have reduced the amount of support I am requesting on behalf of the Series in light of your concern about the proportion of available funds the Series has received.

I would also like to suggest that a series such as ours is more than the sum of its individual events. A series incurs costs above and beyond that of administering individual events, but more importantly it also creates possibilities that are above and beyond any individual events. Our institution's reputation as a place for diverse and vital cultural voices depends on our *reliability* in providing spaces where such voices can be heard. In addition to making a space where a certain artistic genre (poetry) can flourish, the Series

also makes a space where people in and near the University can *count on* hearing something new just about every week of the semester.

Finally, I think that a strong case can be made for seeing the Series as far more than a departmental entity, however much a stable part of its audience is drawn from an English Department context. This season I have cross-programmed events with the Art Department (David Antin participated in the Carnegie Gallery's Dick Higgins retrospective), the Philosophy Department (where poet Jennifer Anna Gosetti has just assumed an Assistant Professorship), the New Media program (for Charles Bernstein's visit), the Women's Resource Center, Modern Languages, and Franco-American Studies programs (for Nicole Brossard's visit). Our audiences regularly include members from a variety of communities both on and off campus.

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.

Sincerely,



Steve Evans  
Assistant Professor, English

### Brief descriptions of the visiting poets

Feb. 14 – **David Antin**: Antin is an influential critic of art and literature and the author of “Turning,” “Talking at the Boundaries” and “What it Means to Be Avant-Garde.” Antin spontaneously composes his talk pieces in situ, blending the intimacy of the story-teller, the timing of a good comedian and the poet’s care for language and desire to astonish. He is based in the visual arts department at the University of California at San Diego. This spring, Antin’s book of conversations with Charles Bernstein (who reads in the series on April 3) will be published by Granary Books. Antin’s visit is being coordinated with the Art Department, which has contributed \$250 towards his honorarium.

Feb. 21 – **Askia Touré**: Touré is one of the founders of the Black Arts Movement and one of the nation’s most prominent African-American poets. He is the author of five books, most recent of which is “Dawnsong: the Epic Memory of Askia Toure.” During the Civil Rights movement, Touré served with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and helped shape the Black Power movement. He also helped build one of the first Black Studies programs in the country at San Francisco State College.

Feb. 28 – **Jennifer Anna Gossetti** and **Michael Alpert**: Gossetti is a new member of the UMaine philosophy department’s faculty and widely-published poet, with works in *Paris Review*, *Missouri Review* and other journals. Alpert is the director of the University of Maine Press and a visual artist. His books include “Die Winterreise,” “Darkwood” and “A Night-sea Journey.” *No Cultural Affairs Committee support is being sought for this event.*

March 28 – **ssipsis** and **James Stevens**: ssipsis, a Penobscot storyteller, poet, activist, grandmother, birchbark artist and painter, lives at Alder Stream near Eustis, Maine. With Georgia Mitchell, she is the author of “Molly Molasses and Me,” as well as numerous uncollected poems. James Stevens is an Akwesasne Mohawk poet whose long poem “Tokinish,” first published in 1994, has been anthologized in “Visit Teepee Town: Native Writings after the Detours. His new volume “Combing the Snakes from His Hair” is due out by mid-March. He now directs Native American Studies at the State University of New York College at Fredonia.

April 3 – **Charles Bernstein**: Bernstein is the David Gray Professor of Poetry and Letters and the director of the Poetics Program at the State University of New York in Buffalo. He has published 25 books of poetry, most recently “With Strings” and “Republics of Reality: 1975-1995.” Bernstein has received numerous honors and awards, including a National Endowment for the Arts Creative Writing Fellowship (1980), a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship (1985), and the Roy Harvey Pearce / Archive for New Poetry Prize at UCSD (1999) for lifetime contribution to poetry and scholarship. With Loss Glazier, Bernstein founded the Electronic Poetry Center in 1994.

April 11 – **Nicole Brossard**: Brossard has published eight novels and numerous books of poetry and essays in a career spanning almost 40 years. Her work has been widely translated and anthologized. In 1991, Brossard was awarded Le Prix Athanase-David for

lifetime achievement. She splits time between her native Montreal and Paris. Brossard's visit is receiving support from the Women's Resource Center (\$250).

**April 18 – Rae Armantrout:** Rae Armantrout is recognized internationally as one of the most original poets of the last decade. Armantrout has published six books of poetry, including *Extremities* (1978), *The Invention of Hunger* (1979), *Precedence* (1985), *Couverture* (selections in French translation, 1991), and *Made to Seem* (1995). *Veil: New and Selected Poems* just appeared from Wesleyan this past fall. Her poems have also been widely anthologized, appearing in *In the American Tree* (National Poetry Foundation), *Language Poetries*, and *Postmodern American Poetry*. Armantrout currently teaches at the University of California at San Diego.

**April 15 – Kathleen Ellis and Candice Stover:** Ellis is a lecturer in the UMaine English Department and the author of the recently-published "Entering Earthquake Country." Stover is an adjunct professor at the College of the Atlantic and the author of "Holding Patterns," the 1994 Maine Chapbook Award winner. Stover has been a reporter for the *Boston Globe* and taught in New Zealand and China. *No Cultural Affairs Committee support is being sought for this event.*

**Saturday, April 27 – Maine Poetry and Story Exchange:** This event is open to all Maine writers and storytellers (published and unpublished) and features open poetry readings, storytelling sessions and writing workshops. *No Cultural Affairs Committee support is being sought for this event.*

**May 9 – Maine Review and Stolen Island Review:** UMaine undergraduate and graduate students will read their own published works from UMaine journals *Maine Review* and *Stolen Island Review*. *No Cultural Affairs Committee support is being sought for this event.*

New Writing Series  
Cultural Affairs Grant Support

<b>Event Expenses</b>	Attend.	Honorarium	Travel from	Travel Cost	Accomm.	Income	Subtotal
Antin	40	1000	San Diego	390.25	76	(+250) Art	1542.73
Touré	40	750	Boston	116	128		728.45
ssipsis		500	Eustis, ME	est-25	45		
Stevens	45	500	Buffalo	est-600	90		
Bernstein		1000	New York	est-600	135		
Armantrout		750	San Diego	486	180		
Brossard		1250	Montreal	est-800	90	(+250) WRC	
<b>total</b>		<b>5750</b>		<b>est-3018</b>	<b>est-744</b>	<b>(+500)</b>	<b>est-9012</b>
<b>Series Expenses</b>							
Posters	(Printing)	340					
Posters	(Design)	est-250					
Videotaping		300					
AV equipment		225					
Room Rental		450					
<b>total</b>							<b>est-1565</b>
<b>Event+Series Total</b>							<b>est-10577</b>

*Cultural Affairs Committee*  
*including the*  
*Distinguished Lecture Series*  
*200 Alumni Hall*  
*University of Maine*

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April 19, 2002

To: Steven R. Evans

From: Kathleen March & François Amar, Co-Chairs

On behalf of the Cultural Affairs Committee, including the Distinguished Lecture Series, it gives me great pleasure to inform you that your proposal, New Writing Series, has been awarded \$5,000.00. **Please contact Wanda Legere at 1-1516 before your event takes place to arrange for disbursement of award funds.**

Note: Reception and University of Maine System payroll expenses are not reimbursable through this award.

Please note that acknowledgment of the *Cultural Affairs Committee* is required on all promotional materials. **A budget report must be submitted at the conclusion of your event and will be considered for future funding requests.** It is assumed that projects are completed within 12 months, therefore, any remaining balance will be returned to the Committee account for further distribution unless otherwise notified.

The Committee notes that it does not fund more than 50% of the amount for any given program. It also asks applicants to consider the most reasonable honoraria possible, as there may not be funding for the higher amounts.

We, the members of the Cultural Affairs Committee, congratulate you and wish you much success on this project.