

3-25-2003

New Writing Series Spring 2003

University of Maine- 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: English Department / New Writing Series

II. a. Responsible Organization Officer: Steven R. Evans
 b. Title: Assistant Professor
 c. Campus Address (include EMail and Telephone): 215 Neville, 351-3809, FC

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

THE UMAINE NEW WRITING SERIES | SPRING 2003

06 Feb	LISA ROBERTSON
25 Feb	MARJORIE AGOSIN
04 Mar	BETH ANDERSON & MICHAEL SCHARF
27 Mar	CONNIE VOISINE & LUCY HONIG
10 Apr	DODIE BELLAMY & KEVIN KILLIAN
24 Apr	ED ROBERSON - 7PM MINSKY
01 May	BOB PERELMAN & KIT ROBINSON

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: > 12,410
 b. Amount committed by applicant organization: > 6,220
 c. Amount committed by/requested of (please indicate which) other funding sources: > 1,690
 d. Amount requested of Cultural Affairs/DLS Committee: > 4,500

Signature of responsible organization officer/date: Sh. R. Evans 3/25/03
SIGNATURE DATE

SPACE BELOW FOR COMMITTEE USE:

\$4,000

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 \$4500 I am requesting for the spring semester of 2003 represents less than one half of the Series's operating budget of approximately \$12,410 for the semester (please see attached budget). The remainder of the required funding will be provided by the English Department's Lloyd H. Elliott fund, with some financial help from the Wilde-Stein Alliance for Sexual Diversity, the Dean of Students and Office of Multicultural Programs, and the Honors College.

The primary objectives of the New Writing Series remain (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 Series is curated with a view to actively promoting cultural diversity on campus. Diversity is here understood to include linguistic diversity (with an emphasis on francophone culture but extended through a focus on poets/writers who are also translators); racial and ethnic diversity (African American, Native American, Asian American, and Jewish writers); national diversity (to date, the Series has hosted poets from Canada, Nigeria, Israel, Australia, Jamaica, and France); sexual diversity (gay and lesbian writers; non-normative heterosexual writers); class diversity (through programming that features writers who identify as working class). The Series aims for gender parity and has had a strongly feminist inflection (Alice Notley, Jayne Cortez, Kathleen Fraser, Joanne Kyger, Lee Ann Brown, and many others). A final way in which the Series honors and cultivates diversity is through its very focus on the genre of poetry and on the activities of small and independent presses that sustain poetry in an era of massive media concentration. Nearly every writer who visits the UMaine has engaged seriously the work of editing, publishing, and/or translating.

The spring 2003 Series began on 6 February and comprises seven events involving eleven writers. The lineup includes the African American poet Ed Roberson, queer writers Dodie Bellamy and Kevin Killian, Vancouver poet Lisa Robertson, Fort Kent native Connie Voisine, the Chilean Jewish poet Marjorie Agosin, two emerging writers—Beth Anderson and Mike Scharf—and two widely anthologized experimental writers, Bob Perelman and Kit Robinson.

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

With sincere gratitude for all the help the Committee has provided to the Series,



Steve Evans, Assistant Professor, English

New Writing Series
Spring 2003 Budget
Cultural Affairs Grant Application

Event Expenses	Date	Att	Travel from	Hon	Travel Exp	Acc.	Meals	Cosponsor	Income
Robertson, Lisa	6-Feb	60	Vancouver	700	\$619	4x45=180	157	Can-Am Ctr	organizational
Agosin, Marjorie	25-Feb	40	n/a	200	0	0	[50]	WIC	organizational
Anderson, Beth	4-Mar	38	Richmond VA	500	\$280		90	none	
Scharf, Mike	4-Mar		NYC	500	\$318	3x45=135	13	none	
Voisine, Connie	27-Mar		Fort Kent	500	car, miles		45	[50]	
Honig, Lucy	27-Mar		Boston	500	car, miles		45	[50]	
Killian, Kevin	10-Apr		SF	500	\$350	4x45=180	[150]	Wilde Stein	500 hon
Bellamy, Dodie	10-Apr		SF	500	\$350	see Killian	[150]	Wilde Stein	500 hon
Roberson, Ed	24-Apr		Newark	750	\$300	2x45=90	[50]	Angel Loredo	250+acc+meals
Perelman, Bob	1-May		Philadelphia	500	\$500	3x45=135	[100]	Honors College	250+Minsky, rcpt
Robinson, Kit	1-May		SF	500	\$600	3x45=135	[100]	none	
total				5650	[3317]	[1035]	[1064]		
Fixed Expenses	service	charge	description						
Soderberg	room rental	\$350	7 x \$50						
Minsky	room rental	\$100	1 x \$100						
Pub Affairs	taping	\$400							
Poster Design	posters	\$300							
Printer	posters	\$300	100 posters						
AV Services	podium/mic	\$175	7 x \$25						
total		\$1,625							
Combined	Honoraria	Travel	Accommod	Meals	Fixed				
total	5650	[3317]	[1035]	[1101]	1625	\$12,410			
less cosponsor contrib	4150	[3317]	[945]	[1101]	1525	\$10,720			
less cosponsor + meal	4150	[3317]	[945]	0	1525	\$9,937			
total relevant to Grant						\$9,937			

Series Schedule & bio-bibliographical information (dates refer to readings: most visiting writers also give talks and make class visits in the days before or after their reading)

06 February LISA ROBERTSON

Vancouver-based poet and art critic Lisa Robertson is the author of three collections: *Xeclogue*, *Debbie: An Epic*, and, most recently, *The Weather*. She is a long-time member of the Kootenay School of Writing Collective and has published broadly on design issues under the rubric of her Office for Soft Architecture. She is presently a Visiting Assistant Professor in Creative Writing at the University of California, San Diego.

25 February MARJORIE AGOSIN

Marjorie Agosin is a Chilean-born human rights activist and a professor of Spanish at Wellesley College. She is best known for her collection of poems, *Dear Anne Frank*, but she is a prolific writer whose wide-ranging and widely-recognized practice includes memoirs and testimonial texts, poems (a selected poems called *In the Threshold of Memory* is due this year), plays, and critical reflection.

04 March BETH ANDERSON & MICHAEL SCHARF

Beth Anderson is the author of *The Habitable World* and *The Impending Collision* as well as several chapbooks. A graduate of the Brown University MFA program, she founded and edited re:press and is a founding member of the subpress publishing cooperative. Having made her living as a lexicographer in Boston until recently, Anderson is now studying law in Richmond, Virginia.

Michael Scharf is the poetry forecasts editor at *Publishers Weekly* and a talented young poet whose works include *Telemachiad*, *Verité*, and *Lateox Dov*. He had a column, "Metromania," in *Poets & Writers* for several years and has published both criticism and poetry in a wide range of journals including *Poetry*, *Tripwire*, and the *Poetry Project Newsletter*.

27 March CONNIE VOISINE & LUCY HONIG

Fort Kent native Connie Voisine won the 1999 Associated Writing Programs' prize for her collection *Cathedral of the North*. Her poems have appeared in numerous journals, including *Ploughshares* and *Black Warrior Review*. She presently teaches in New Mexico State's new MFA program.

Lucy Honig won the 1999 Drew Heinz Literature Prize for her collection *The Truly Needy and Other Stories*. Her stories have appeared in two O. Henry Prize story collections, and in *Best American Short Stories*, as well as in *DoubleTake*, *Ploughshares*, *Gettysburg Review*, *Witness*, *Agni*, and other magazines. Her first novel, *Picking Up*, was published by Dog Ear Press, and she is the recipient of a D. H. Lawrence Fellowship and

a Northwood Institute Creativity Center Fellowship. She formerly lived as a farmer in Maine and now lives and works as a teacher in Boston.

10 April DODIE BELLAMY & KEVIN KILLIAN

Dodie Bellamy is the author of *The Mina Harker Letters*, *Feminine Hijinx*, and other works of fiction. She is the coeditor, with Kevin Killian, of *Mirage #4/Periodical*, a long-standing monthly magazine of poetry. A former director of Small Press Traffic in San Francisco, Bellamy now teaches creative writing at Mills College and SFSU and works also as a literary journalist contributing frequently to the *San Diego Weekly*, Seattle's *The Stranger*, and the *Village Voice*, and other magazines and journals. Her new novel in progress is called "The Fourth Form."

Kevin Killian is the author of several works of fiction—including *Shy* and *Bedrooms Have Windows*—as well as a volume of poetry, *Argento Series*, and the literary biography of Jack Spicer, co-written with Lewis Ellingham. Killian is presently co-editing Jack Spicer's letters with the poet Peter Gizzi.

24 April ED ROBERSON - 7PM MINSKY

Born and raised in Pittsburgh, Ed Roberson is the celebrated author of *Atmospheric Conditions* (1998 National Poetry Series winner), *Voices Cast Out to Talk Us In* (winner of the 1994 Iowa Poetry Prize) and several earlier books including *When Thy King Is a Boy*, *Etai-Eken*, and *Lucid Interval as Integral Music*. His selected poems *Just In/Word of Navigational Challenges* recently appeared. Critics have praised Roberson's "formal bravura and elasticity" and the uniqueness of his exploration of the mysteries of the African-American experience, seen and heard backwards and forwards in time and space.

01 May BOB PERELMAN & KIT ROBINSON

Bob Perelman is the widely-renowned author of ten volumes of poetry, including *Ten to One: Selected Poems*, *Virtual Reality*, *The First World*, and *Braille*. He is also a scholar of modern and contemporary poetry, having published to enthusiastic reception *The Trouble with Genius: Reading Pound, Joyce, Stein and Zukofsky* and *The Marginalization of Poetry: Language Writing and Literary History*. Perelman has a tenured professorship at the University of Pennsylvania, where he chairs the Creative Writing Department.

Kit Robinson's most recent book is *The Crave*. Among his dozen other titles are *Covers*, *Balance Sheet*, and *Ice Cubes*. His work has appeared in translation in Italy, France, Sweden, and Russia. His translation of the Russian poet Ilya Kutik's *Ode on Visiting the Belosaraisk Spit on the Sea of Asov* was published in a bilingual edition from Alef Press. Robinson was formerly the director of the Tenderloin Writers Workshop and he taught for many years through the California Poets in the Schools program.

Writers Categorized by Interest/Focus

Women writers: Lisa Robertson, Marjorie Agosin, Beth Anderson, Connie Voisine, Lucy Honig, Dodie Bellamy

Canadian writers: Lisa Roberson

Jewish writers: Marjorie Agosin, Michael Scharf

Maine writers: Connie Voisine, Lucy Honig

Gay and Lesbian writers: Dodie Bellamy, Kevin Killian

African American writers: Ed Roberson

Experimental writers: Bob Perelman, Kit Robinson, Lisa Robertson, Beth Anderson, Dodie Bellamy, Kevin Killian, Ed Roberson

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

April 9, 2003

To: Steven 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/Spring 2003, has been awarded \$4,000.00. **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.