

FEBRUARY 2009

INTERVIEW

Writing in the Windy City: The Jack Kerouac School visits AWP



Representatives from the Jack Kerouac School of Disembodied Poetics were pleased to join thousands of writers, writing programs, publishers, professors, students, and others at the Association of Writers and Writing Programs (AWP) Conference in Chicago on Feb. 11-14. Amy Catanzano, Lisa Birman, and four MFA students working with *Bombay Gin*--Marie Larson (Graduate Assistant for Publications), Jen Davis (*Bombay Gin* Editor-in-Chief), Rebecca George (*Bombay Gin* Managing Editor), and Adrienne Dодt (*Bombay Gin* Poetry Editor)--hosted a table at the Bookfair and had the opportunity to talk with a steady stream of prospective students, alumni and friends, editors from other journals, and people checking us out. Naropa faculty and alumni such as Elizabeth Robinson, Eleni

Sikelianos, Akilah Oliver, and many others were in attendance as well. This was the first year that Naropa hosted a table at AWP, which now features a growing presence of small press publishers and writers as well as a robust "shadow conference" of off-site events.

Our Naropa ambassadors worked the Naropa Bookfair table, participated in readings and book signings, and attended panels on writing and beyond. Over 50 copies of *Bombay Gin* were sold, which will help us pay for the next issue. Stay tuned for details about the AWP Conference in Denver on April 7-10, 2010!

"Writing is like walking in a deserted street. Out of the dust in the street you make a mud pie." - John le Carre



Spring 2009 Events



LIT@Lunch Event with Marilyn Krysl

**Wed., March 4, 12 p.m.
(Upaya Cottage North)**

Cookies and tea provided.

Marilyn Krysl is the award-winning author of such works as *Dinner With Osama*, *How to Accommodate Men*, *Warscape With Lovers*, *Soulskin*, and *More Palomino*, *Please, More Fuchsia*.

4X4 Reading

Thurs., March 5, 7:30 p.m. (CSU Book Store, Lory Student Center)

Each year Naropa University, University of Denver, Colorado State University, and University of Colorado at Boulder participate in the 4x4 Reading Series, where post-bachelorate students from each creative writing program convene to give four readings, one at each of the host campuses. Naropa hosted the second installment of the series on Feb. 6 in the Performing Arts Center represented by Megan Fincher. The third event was hosted this past Thursday (Feb. 19) at University of Denver and featured Travis Cebula. Mark your calendar for the final installment of the series, which features Sara Nolan at Colorado State University on Thursday, March 5, 7:30 p.m.



28TH BLACK MARIA FILM + VIDEO FESTIVAL

Monday, March 9, 7 p.m. (Performing Arts Center)

The Black Maria Film and Video Festival is brought to Boulder by a coalition between CU Film Studies and Naropa's Writing & Poetics department. Since 1981, the annual Black Maria Festival, an international juried competition and award tour, has been fulfilling its mission to advocate, exhibit, and reward cutting edge works from independent film and videomakers. This is the second year Naropa and CU have brought the festival to Boulder. The festival is known for its national public exhibition program, which features a variety of bold contemporary works drawn from the annual collection of 50 award winning films and videos. The program is ninety minutes long and is followed by a discussion of the films. For further information, contact Writing & Poetics at (303) 546-3540.

Reading: Lisa Birman and Travis MacDonald

Sat., April 4, 8 p.m. (Shambhala Hall)

Hollowdeck Press and Fact-Simile Editions present a reading and book launch for Lisa Birman's *for that return passage – A Valentine for the United States of America* and Travis MacDonald's *The O Mission Repo*. Saturday April 4, 8 p.m. in Shambhala Hall.



Reading: Lawson Fusao Inada (left) and Andrew Schelling

Sat., April 11, 8 p.m. (Performing Arts Center)

The Department of Writing & Poetics is pleased to present a reading with Lawson Fusao Inada and Andrew Schelling. Many thanks to Andrew Schelling for his work to bring Lawson Inada to Naropa.

MFA & BA Student Reading

Fri., April 17, 8 p.m. (Performing Arts Center)

The Writing & Poetics Spring Student Reading is an opportunity for students to share their various projects and support their colleagues. Students: look for the e-mail announcement in late March to sign up for this reading in the Writing & Poetics office.

MFA & BA Graduation Readings

Undergraduate Reading: Fri., May 8, 12 p.m. (PAC)

Graduate Reading: Fri., May 8, 8 p.m. (PAC)

These two readings celebrate the work of graduating students from Naropa University's Writing & Poetics Department. More details to come.

Alumni News

Travis Cebula has poems forthcoming in *NOON* and *Eleven-Eleven*.

Kathy Conde was a finalist in the 2008 Rick De Marinis Short Fiction Competition. Her collection of short stories was a semifinalist for the 2008 Iowa Short Fiction Award. She has a short story forthcoming in *Pearl*.

Jamba Dunn began work as the American English Content Author for Rosetta Stone Software in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Joshua Gage's book, *breaths*, which is based on his MFA portfolio, was published by VanZeno Press. You can order an autographed copy directly from Josh, or you can purchase it from Amazon. For more information, go here: http://www.vanzenopress.com/author_gage.htm. In addition, his MFA thesis was recently published on Big Bridge: <http://www.bigbridge.org/LEV-GAG.HTM>

Tim Hernandez's first novel, *Breathing, In Dust*, will be coming out this fall with the University of Texas Tech Press/Americas Series, which features authors from Latin America. Tim's book will be the only one from the Northern U.S.

J.Quinn Malott first novel, *The Evolution of Shadows*, will be released by Unbridled Books later this year.

Lesléa Newman is the current Poet Laureate of Northampton, Massachusetts. She is editing a poetry column in her local newspaper, *The Daily Hampshire Gazette*, which features local poets, and is running a "Lunch with the Laureate" series in which she gives luncheon readings to community groups. In addition, her newest poetry collection, *Nobody's*

Mother, has just been published by Orchard House Press. Lesléa is currently a faculty member of the Stonecoast MFA program at the University of Southern Maine.

Rowland Saifi's novella, *Karner Blue Estates*, was published by Black Lodge Press this January.

Along with Mary Burger, Steve Dickison and Anh-Hoa Nguyen, **John Sakkis** recently gave a talk on the "What To Do With What Is Made" panel at Mill's College for their Professional Survival Day. He was also invited to speak at Robert Gluck's Business of Creative Writing class at SFSU. He's started a press, BOTH BOTH Editions. Logan Ryan Smith's *Humans & Horses* is set to kick off the series. He gave a reading at Studio One Gallery in Oakland, CA, with Graham Foust and Lorilee Lee. With Drummond Buckley he'll be presenting a photography/text installation at the TAXT group show at 21 Grand, also in Oakland.

Luis Valadez's debut book of poetry, *What I'm On*, will be released by the University of Arizona Press this March. He will be having a release party for it in Chicago. The cover bears artwork by **Tim Hernandez**, which includes some brush stroke work he did while in Keith Abbott's class at Naropa.

Carey Westbrook wishes to invite everyone to his online short film premiere at netfilm.com. Two films, *Love's Killing Room Trailer* and *Love Corrupt* are available for viewing on the website. If these films receive enough votes they will be the basis for a sitcom. Carey tells us that if he wins the contest, in thanks for your vote, he will buy us all donuts! Vote early and vote often, people.

Faculty News

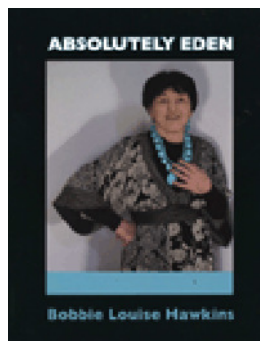
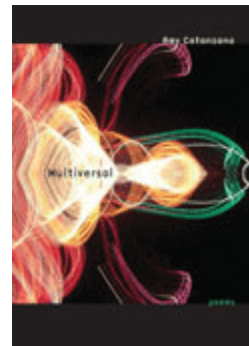


Keith Kumasen Abbott's memoir of Richard Brautigan, *Downstream from Trout Fishing in America*, will be reprinted in a revised edition by Astrophil Press. His solo renku, *Twisty Chunks*, will appear in *Simply Haiku* magazine accompanied by a critical commentary on the challenges of writing solo renku. Abbott's brush art was commissioned by Shambhala Sun for a Norman Fischer article, "Applied Dharma." Five ink paintings

appeared: *Hotei Dancing*, *Hotei and Bird*, *Han Shan Laughs*, *Urban Han Shan*, and *Han Shan Reads Blank Scroll*. A celebration of Keith's writing, art, and teaching by Waylon Lewis, editor of *Elephant Journal*, was published on <http://www.elephantjournal.com/2009/02/keith-abbot-brilliant-naropa-writing-teacher-writer-calligrapher/>.

Lisa Birman's collection for *that return passage—A Valentine for the United States of America* was published by Hollowdeck Press in December. Her poetry will appear in the next issues of *580 Split* and *The Recluse*, and an interview with Bhanu Kapil is forthcoming on *Trickhouse*. Hollowdeck Press and Fact-Simile Editions present a reading and book launch for Lisa's book and Travis MacDonald's *The O Mission Repo*. on Saturday, April 4, 8 p.m. in Shambhala Hall.

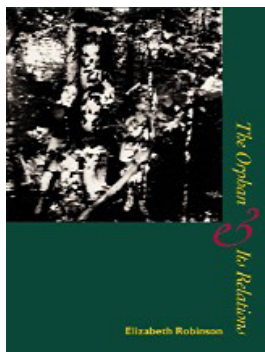
Amy Catanzano's book, *Multiversal*, selected by Michael Palmer for the Poets Out Loud Prize, is out from Fordham University Press. Amy is reading with Michael Palmer for the book launch in New York City on Wed., March 4 at 7 p.m. at Fordham University, Lincoln Center, 113 West 60th Street, Lowenstein Building, 12th Floor Lounge. Amy will be reading from *Multiversal* in a celebration at the Boulder Book Store on Tues., April 14, at 7:30 p.m. Amy recently visited Chicago where she helped represent Naropa at AWP, did a book signing, and read at Roosevelt University for the anthology, *A Best of Fence*, in which her poetry appears.



Bobbie Louise Hawkins will be reading from her new book, *Absolutely Eden*, at the Boulder Book Store on Tues., March 3, at 7:30 p.m.

Faculty News cont.

Michelle Naka Pierce is on sabbatical and living in London. She just returned from Paris, where she read at the Ivy Writers Paris reading series along with Chris Pusateri and Marie-Louise Chapelle (French poet). While in France, she was interviewed for an upcoming issue of the *Continental Review*. In addition, she was invited to visit a graduate class in creative writing at Polytechnique University to discuss translations of her new manuscript *She, A Blueprint for InterSurface*; excerpts are forthcoming in *American Letters and Commentary* and *Upstairs at Duroc* (France). In March, she will interview Caroline Bergvall about pedagogy, and in May, she will read at the Opened reading series in London. You can now find her blogging about poetry and poetics at <http://michellenakapierce.blogspot.com/>.



A review of **Elizabeth Robinson's** book, *Inaudible Trumpeters*, appeared in Bookslut. She celebrated her new book, *The Orphan & its Relations*, in a reading at the Associated Writing Programs Conference. Her work was also recently included in two anthologies: *A Best of Fence* and *Norton's American Hybrid*. In the coming months, she will be giving readings in Chicago, Nebraska, and the Bay Area. She has critical writing forthcoming in *Denver Quarterly* and *English Language Notes*. An essay on

pedagogy will appear in *The Writer's Work*, forthcoming from Autumn House Press. The essay will include writing by Naropa students Joseph Melior and Troy Suben.

Andrew Schelling has nearly completed work on an anthology of India's medieval poetry—composed by “Tom of Bedlam” or “Crazy Jane” singers in the bhakti tradition. It is in English translation

and will be issued by Oxford University Press. Longhouse produced folded chaplets of two of the poets he's translated himself, Lal Ded (Kashmir) and Dadu Dhayal (Ahmedabad). A new chapbook by Joanne Kyger, *Lo & Behold*, has an introduction by Andrew, and his essay on “Post-Coyote Poets” is in *Jacket* magazine.

Anne Waldman participated in a festival in Granada, Nicaragua, this February, reading to enormous numbers of locals, friends, and poets from other parts of the world on a stage set up in the town Zocalo. Anne writes, “Nicaragua has been stressed so many years but poetry is as strong as ever.” Other participants included poet-priest and former Minister of Culture under the Sandinistas, Ernesto Cardenal, Giaconda Belli, and Yevgeny Yevtushenko. Waldman's *Martyrdom*, a suite of poems, and part political memoir, has been published by Palm Press, and *Manatee/Humanity* is being published this April with Penguin Poets. It is a 100 page inter-species meditation using the structure of the Buddhist Kalachakra initiation with a beautiful cover by Kiki Smith. The book will be celebrated at a book party at the Bowery Poetry Club in NYC on April 10. Waldman will be a speaker at the Conference on College Composition in San Francisco and giving a talk on collaborations with visual artists at the College for Creative Studies in Detroit. Also, her collaboration *Nine Nights Meditation* with artist Donna Dennis has recently been published in a lush edition by Granary Books. Check out Fast Speaking Music on MySpace for other updates on music and collaboration with Anne's son Ambrose Bye.



Call to Action: United Naropa Seeks Representation

Relatively new to the university, United Naropa is a branch of student government, the Student Union of Naropa (S.U.N.). It is primarily a student-led organization acting as an advocate for the concerns of all students in hopes to enhance the overall experience and encourage a larger sense of community within the university. The UN seeks representatives from each degree program and is currently in need of graduate level representation by MA & MFA students in the Writing and Poetics department. The UN meets once a week on Thursday evenings from 7:30 to 9 p.m. and once a month on Sundays from 10 a.m. until noon. If you are interested, please contact Jenevieve Glemming, Associate Dean of Students at jvieve@naropa.edu or 303.546.3549. The undergraduate program is currently being represented by Heatherlie Ashley (left), a transfer student from Seattle, Washington. Her goal in the UN is to strengthen communication between departments and, by using the power of the written word, she aspires to strengthen the voice of the student population. Heatherlie can be contacted



at hashley@students.naropa.edu

Summer Writing Program News

The SWP catalog is out, so pick up a copy at the SWP office if you don't already have one. Mark your calendars for **March 18**. That's the day we start taking credit registrations. You'll be receiving an e-mail from Julie with all your registration information on that day. You also have the option of attending a registration meeting at noon in Goldfarb Studio. Credit students have priority in registering for workshops, but you must fill in your paperwork by March 23! Another important date is **April 1**: all scholarship applications are due by 5 p.m. April 1. Check out the website (<http://www.naropa.edu/swp/finaid.cfm>) or come by and see us.