



For Immediate Release

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**Poets House Announces Its 20th Annual Showcase:
A Display of All the Poetry Books Published in the Past Year**

Opening: Saturday, June 30, 2012, 1:00-5:00pm (Members Preview: 12Noon-1:00pm)

On view through Saturday, August 4, 2012

June 18, 2012, New York, NY — For the past 20 years, Poets House has been at the forefront of creating the most comprehensive display of poetry books in our language. Giving the public the best opportunity to experience the diversity of new poetry in this nation, the Showcase has also become a touchstone for publishers and poets from around the country and has made the Poets House permanent collection of books into one of the most remarkable documents of poetry in our time.

From micro-press chapbooks and CDs to volumes from major commercial publishers, more than 2,500 poetry titles will be gathered together at Poets House's 20th annual Showcase. The Poets House Showcase opens **Saturday, June 30 with a Members' Preview from 12 noon-1:00pm** and a **Public Reception from 1:00-5:00pm** at Poets House, 10 River Terrace (at Murray St.). The exhibition is on view through Saturday, August 4 during regular library hours, Thursday–Friday, 11am–7pm, Saturday, 11am–6pm. Admission is free.

This year's Showcase Opening features readings by poets **Julian Talamantez Brolaski, Eduardo Corral, Thom Donovan, Aracelis Girmay, Scott Hightower, Cathy Park Hong, Eileen Myles, Murat Nemet-Nejat, Michael O'Brien, Rowan Ricardo Phillips, Martha Rhodes, Frances Richard, Leonard Schwartz, Patricia Smith, Leigh Stein, Mónica de la Torre, M.A. Vizsolyi** and **John Yau**.

— more —

“With the increasing demise of bookstores and the waning budgets of libraries, the Showcase is a singular opportunity to experience all the most current poetry in the country and to begin to understand what’s happening in the field,” said Poets House Executive Director Lee Briccetti. “But it’s more than a walk-in review mechanism...it’s also an invitation to a poetic *bacchanalia*.”

Just a minute sampling of that *bacchanalia* in this year’s show includes the **Greying Ghost Press**, which stuffs all its mail orders full with either old photos, fragments of old maps and books or comic scraps; **Fact-Simile**, a small independent publisher of mostly handmade books and book-objects that strives to compose all of its products from recycled and reclaimed materials and to help further expand the physical definitions of literature; and **Arktoi Books**, an imprint of Red Hen Press, established in 2006 to publish literary works of high quality by lesbian writers, along with poetry giants such as Farrar, Straus and Company.

The Poets House Showcase is a wonderfully diverse and inclusive exhibition in which books from micro-presses receive the same care and attention as major publishers. As more poets from all over the country enter into print — contributing to the diversity of the American poetic voice — titles gathered include spoken word CDs, translations, anthologies, poetry-related prose (essay collections, memoirs, biographies, scholarly works and more), chapbooks, poetry baseball cards and other poetry objects, as well as volumes by major American poets and more.

“Over the last 20 years, the Showcase has become a recognized mechanism to understanding the health of small presses and independent publishing, which are so responsible for the biodiversity in our field.” Ms. Briccetti added.

The Showcase is made possible by longtime Poets House supporter **Deborah Pease** — an original supporter of *The Paris Review* — who is passionate about the Showcase because it reflects the range, diversity and inventiveness of current poetry publishing. Visitors are also encouraged to take home the catalog, as it is a not-to-be-missed tool for practitioners, teachers and librarians as well as poetry lovers.

Poets House is a national poetry library and literary center that invites poets and the public to step into the living tradition of poetry. Poets House – through its poetry resources and literary events — documents the wealth and diversity of modern poetry and stimulates public dialogue on issues of poetry in culture. Founded in 1985 by poet Stanley Kunitz and arts administrator Elizabeth Kray, the over-50,000-volume library has created a home for all who read and write poetry. In the summer of 2009, Poets House moved to its permanent home at 10 River Terrace in Battery Park City and opened to the public on September 25, 2009. Now in its new home on the banks of the Hudson River and celebrating its 25th anniversary of public programming this year, Poets House is brimming with readers, writers, children’s class trips and program audiences. For more information about these events and Poets House in general, call (212) 431-7920 or visit www.poetshouse.org, and join us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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