

JOIN THE CONVERGENCE ON POETICS

WITH Charles Altieri Marie Annharte
Charles Bernstein Amaranth Borsuk
Rebecca Brown Tisa Bryant Rebecca
Cummins Michael Davidson Sarah Dowling
Rachel Blau DuPlessis Kathleen Fraser
Elisabeth Frost Carla Harryman Lyn Hejinian
Jeanne Heuving Ted Hiebert Cynthia Hogue
Bhanu Kapil Clark Lunberry Joe Milutis
Aldon Nielsen Peter O'Leary Candice Rai
Brian Reed Leonard Schwartz Evie Shockley
Ron Silliman Barrett Watten Tyrone Williams
Lissa Wolsak

September 27-30, 2012
North Creek Events Center
University of Washington Bothell

Convergence on Poetics queries the current understanding and practice of poetics within writing communities and the academy. The conference consists of keynote panels, poetics postings, and author performances. All events will be scheduled singularly, so that a conversation of the whole can address, in the words of George Oppen, “the meaning / Of being numerous.”

Poesis can be defined most broadly as making and poetics as a study of making. While poesis and poetics have been important for the areas of literary studies, creative writing, textual and discourse studies, among others, their larger area of concern—i.e. making itself—crosses multiple arts and disciplines. Indeed, it is the emphasis on making, or construction, which creative arts (and other creative projects) base much of their claim for cultural significance, since in making new relations can pertain which ratiocinative approaches to knowledge formation often silence.

Poetics has far more often addressed the “how” of a text than its “what”—how work is produced, how it is disseminated, and how it is consumed. Roland Barthes remarks: “[poetics] can never be a science of content, but only of the conditions of content.” Its aim is to “know how meaning is possible, at what cost and by what means.” But while Barthes statement of poetics remains an important vantage on poetics, our own time yields a different set of questions and tensions that can be loosely grouped through the category of “what.” The poet Robert Creeley once remarked, “Form is never more than an extension of content.” By this comment, Creeley did not seek to undermine the importance of poetic form, but rather to suggest that form and content exist in a dynamic relationship.

The conference asks how the synergistic relations between “the what” and “the how” of the texts, art objects, and performances might be brought into sharper focus. Basic questions will be posed: How might poetics refashion itself within an interdisciplinary context that includes multiple arts and multiple disciplines? Is poetics just another discipline along with other disciplines or something rather different than these? What challenges do poetics face from diverse disciplinary practices? And what challenges do poetics pose for multiple areas of study?

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Thursday, September 27

What Is / Are Poetics? 7:30 p.m.

Charles Bernstein, Rebecca Brown, Rachel Blau DuPlessis

OPENING RECEPTION

Friday, September 28

State of the Art 9:00 a.m.
Tisa Bryant, Carla Harryman, Tyrone Williams

Poetics and Ethnography 10:30 a.m.
Marie Annharte, Sarah Dowling, Candice Rai

LUNCH 12:00 Noon

Cross Cultural Poetics 1:30 p.m.
Aldon Nielsen, Leonard Schwartz, Evie Shockley

Poetics, Embodiment, and Creative Practice 3:00 p.m.
Michael Davidson, Kathleen Fraser, Bhanu Kapil

WRITER / ARTIST PERFORMANCES 8:00 p.m.
Tyrone Williams Barrett Watten Ron Silliman Evie Shockley Leonard Schwartz Peter
O'Leary Aldon Nielsen Joe Milutis Clark Lunberry Bhanu Kapil Cynthia Hogue & Sylvain
Gallais Ted Hiebert Lyn Hejinian

Saturday, September 29

Poetics and New Media 9:00 a.m.
Clark Lunberry, Joe Milutis, Ron Silliman

Poetics and Other Arts 10:30 a.m.
Rebecca Cummins, Ted Hiebert, Barrett Watten

LUNCH 12:00 Noon

Poetics and Other Arts 1:30 p.m.
Charles Altieri, Lyn Hejinian, Brian Reed

POSTINGS ON POETICS 3:00 p.m.

WRITER / ARTIST PERFORMANCES 8:00 p.m.
Carla Harryman Elisabeth Frost Kathleen Fraser Rachel Blau DuPlessis Sarah Dowling
Michael Davidson Rebecca Cummins Tisa Bryant Rebecca Brown Amaranth Borsuk
Charles Bernstein Marie Annharte

Sunday, September 30

Poetics, Affirmation, and Dissensus 9:00 a.m.
Amaranth Borsuk, Elisabeth Frost, Cynthia Hogue

Poetics and the Medium of Language 10:30 a.m.
Jeanne Heuing, Peter O'Leary, Lissa Wolsak

POSTINGS ON POETICS Noon

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HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE

Register

To register for the conference, go to: www.uwb.edu/mfa/fallconvergence

Book a Room at the Conference Hotel

We have reserved rooms at The Country Inn & Suites, a short drive and 15-minute walk from the University of Washington Bothell campus. A private booking link is now active: www.countryinns.com/convergenceonpoetics

Make a Proposal

Please send your 250 word proposal on poetics to poeticsconference@uwb.edu **by July 15**, and mark "proposal" in the subject line. In addition to keynote panels, we have a Saturday afternoon "postings on poetics" for five minute proposed manifestos, diatribes, and learned presentations, followed by an open mic. The Conference Committee will notify you about your proposal by the beginning of August.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

This conference is supported by the UW Bothell's MFA in Creative Writing & Poetics, UW Simpson Center for the Humanities, UW Graduate School, UW Bothell's School of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences, UW Bothell's Office of the Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, and UW Bothell's Teaching and Learning Center.

UW Bothell is located just west of Interstate 405 at Exit 24. For further directions, see: www.uwb.edu/directions.

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