

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pulitzer Arts Foundation Announces New Poetry Collaboration Beginning January 2017

Longstanding poetry series at fort gondo compound for the arts is reimaged as 100 Boots Poetry Series at Pulitzer Arts Foundation

ST. LOUIS, September 9, 2016—Pulitzer Arts Foundation today announces a new collaborative poetry series that connects the growing poetry audience of two of St. Louis' celebrated arts institutions. Under a new banner as the 100 Boots Poetry Series, this program is the evolution of a series started in 2011 by the Cherokee Street art space fort gondo compound for the arts. The series is co-organized by poet, curator, and former director of fort gondo, Jessica Baran, and St. Louis-based poet and educator, Ted Mathys. The collaboration continues the Pulitzer's commitment to providing exceptional arts experiences—not just of visual arts, but of all art forms. The series begins at the Pulitzer in January 2017 presenting readings by a range of emerging, mid-career, and established poets from St. Louis and across the United States. At each of the three events in the series, limited-edition broadsides created by design duo Kevin and Danielle McCoy—collectively known as WORK/PLAY—will be available for free to visitors, and a selection of the poets' books will be for sale courtesy of Left Bank Books.

"We are delighted to work with exceptional collaborators such as Jessica Baran, Ted Mathys, and WORK/PLAY, as well as the extraordinarily talented poets this season," says Pulitzer Director Cara Starke. "We've seen great support from our audience for poetry events at the Pulitzer, which have included numerous readings by local and national poets, the commission of original work, and the presentation of video poems in our gallery. The 100 Boots Poetry Series will continue providing those rich experiences for our visitors."

Baran says that, "It has been a tremendous experience to build such a dedicated poetry community at fort gondo over the last five years, and the collaboration with the Pulitzer is an extension of that community." The last event of the fort gondo poetry series will be on December 10, 2016.

"St. Louis is fast emerging as a poetry destination of national heft, and with the 100 Boots Poetry Series we're excited to contribute to that momentum," says Mathys. "The caliber of the poets, the

energy of our collaborators at WORK/PLAY and Left Bank Books, and the commitment of the Pulitzer Arts Foundation to poetry all promise to make the series memorable.”

Schedule of Readings

The first event of the series will be held on January 27, 2017, with readings by **Lyn Hejinian**, a founding figure of the Language Movement of the 1970s and still one of the most influential figures in experimental and avant-garde poetry today, as well as St. Louis-based poet **Alison C. Rollins**, who was recently recognized as a recipient of the esteemed Ruth Lilly and Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Poetry Fellowship by the Poetry Foundation and *Poetry* magazine, one of the largest awards offered to young poets in the United States. Rollins has also received a fellowship from the Cave Canem Foundation.

On March 3, 2017, the event includes readings by Pulitzer Prize-winning poet **Rae Armantrout**, author of thirteen books of poetry and the recipient of many notable awards including the National Book Critics Circle Award and a Guggenheim Fellowship, as well as **Evie Shockley**, author of several collections of poetry and a critical volume on formal innovation in African American poetry. Shockley is an associate professor of English at Rutgers University and has been the recipient of many scholarly and creative honors including the Holmes National Poetry Prize, and fellowships from the Cave Canem Foundation and the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

The final event in the season will be held on April 21, 2017, and includes readings by **Kaveh Akbar**, founder and editor of *Divedapper*, whose work has appeared in multiple publications, is the founder and cohost of the monthly poetry podcast *All Up in Your Ears*, and one of the 2016 recipients of the prestigious Ruth Lilly and Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Poetry Fellowship. The evening will also include readings by **Anselm Berrigan**, author of several collections of poetry, artistic director of the Poetry Project at St. Mark’s Church from 2003-2007, and currently serving as the co-chair of writing at the Milton Avery Graduate School of the Arts at Bard College.

The selection of poets for the inaugural season is, in part, inspired by certain themes of the Pulitzer’s next exhibition, *Medardo Rosso: Experiments in Light and Form*, which will be on view through the run of the series. Several of the poets’ work explores the ways in which the body is constructed, manipulated, and distributed in art and society, or share in Rosso’s affinity for the gestural, provisional marks of craft. The readings are from 6-8 pm at the Pulitzer and free to attend. The events will take place within the galleries, adding a new experience of the sculptures, drawings, and photographs on view.

About the Pulitzer Arts Foundation

Pulitzer Arts Foundation is a non-collecting arts institution that presents experimental, progressive, and multidisciplinary exhibitions and programs, encompassing both historic and contemporary art from across the globe. Founded in 2001, the Pulitzer is dedicated to utilizing the naturally lit, contemplative spaces of its Tadao Ando-designed building—one of the country’s most celebrated examples of contemporary museum architecture—to create multilayered experiences that link the visual arts with other cultural forms and heighten audience understanding and enjoyment. Through diverse exhibitions and public programming, the Pulitzer

seeks to deepen community engagement with art, and to inspire audiences to think differently about art and its relationship to their lives. Deeply committed to serving the broader St. Louis community, the Pulitzer is an integral part of the Grand Center arts district and the wider cultural and civic landscape in St. Louis.

The Pulitzer is free and open to the public Wednesday through Saturday. Hours are 10am–5pm on Wednesday and Saturday, 10am–8pm on Thursday and Friday. For more information, visit pulitzerarts.org or call 314-754-1850.

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