

MONTREAL ZEN POETRY FESTIVAL 2009

forget
the words!

MONTREAL
ZEN POETRY
FESTIVAL

MARCH 6-8
2009

oubliez
les mots!

FESTIVAL
DE POÉSIE ZEN
DE MONTRÉAL

6-8 MARS
2009

¡olvida
las palabras!

EL FESTIVAL
DE POESÍA ZEN
DE MONTRÉAL

06-08 DE MARZO
2009

THE FESTIVAL

"Forget the words!" is the theme of the second biennial Montreal Zen Poetry Festival, an ambitious and enigmatic affair that will take off the weekend of March 06 to 08, 2009. The festival, launched in 2007 and fast becoming a must-attend cultural event, draws on the deep interconnection of Zen and poetry as it aims to bring an awareness of Zen and Zen culture to a wider audience.

Poets, translators, calligraphers, scholars, literary publishers, and Zen monks from across North America will come together to explore how Zen embraces a paradoxical relationship with language. The festival organizers invite everyone to take part in this meaningful and entertaining line-up of events with our lively and thought-provoking speakers and artists.

THE GUESTS AND EVENTS

This year's featured Zen poets include **Peter Levitt**, Zen teacher and long-time poet and translator from Salt Spring Island, British Columbia, **Chase Twichell**, poet and founder of Ausable Press in upstate New York, and **Shin Yu Pai**, a young poet, visual artist and collaborator from Seattle. Also joining us will be **Seido Ray Ronci**, a Missouri-based Zen monk, poet and musician.

We welcome back our special guest **Red Pine**, a prolific and widely respected translator of classical Chinese literature (as well as a wonderful storyteller), from Port Townsend, Washington. Translator-poet **David Hinton** will travel from Vermont to join us for the festival. He has earned wide acclaim for recreating the classical Chinese poetry tradition as compelling contemporary poetry that accurately conveys the texture and density of the originals.

Dennis Maloney, founder of White Pine Press in Buffalo, New York, will contribute as a translator, a tanka poet and a small press editor and publisher. **Stephen Addiss**, a world-renowned calligrapher and a leading authority on Japanese art, as well as a musician, poet, translator and painter, will involve us in his love for haiga, a visual form that links poetry and painting.

The theme of this year's program – *Forget the words!* – is also the title of a translation panel that will be moderated by **Erín Moure**, one of Canada's most eminent poets. The theme is taken from a verse by **Chuang Tzu**, the Chinese Taoist philosopher, which alludes to the interdependence of language and meaning, a familiar issue for writers.

This year, festival-goers will be invited to begin each morning with Zen meditation. The daily schedule of activities includes a writing workshop with **Peter Levitt**, in collaboration with the Quebec Writers' Federation, and a collaborative poetry workshop with **Shin Yu Pai**.

David Hinton will deliver the Paul Hsiang Lecture, sponsored by McGill University's Centre for East Asian Studies. Meanwhile, Zen monk-scholar **Victor Sogen Hori** will host an evening of Poetry: Memory and Dharma, with **Chase Twichell** and **Peter Levitt**.

The festival will close with a literary/visual brunch at Soupesoup, a smart restaurant in Old Montreal. **Shin Yu Pai** and **Steven Addiss** will present their work, which bridges poetry and visual arts.

ENPUKU•JI

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DEMOGRAPHIC

Your support for the Montreal Zen Poetry Festival 2009 will contribute to an up-and-coming literary festival, unique among Montreal's cultural events, and will offer you visibility within a key and diverse demographic.

The established reputations of our invited poets and translators will attract members of the **literary and academic communities** of eastern Canada and the northeastern United States including the well-developed poetry networks of Quebec, Ontario and Atlantic Canada.

With Centre Zen de la Main's established presence in the Plateau, we are committed to keeping the festival in the neighbourhood, giving us access to the Plateau's numerous **artistic and intellectual communities**.

At the same time, the multi-cultural emphasis of the festival will reach out to various **Asian communities** as well as members from the forty **Buddhist organizations** in Montreal.

We are working to have local media coverage of the festival by **CBC, CKUT, The Gazette**, the **Montreal Mirror** and **La Presse** as well as by Vermont, New Hampshire and New York State newspapers and radio, and North American Buddhist magazines. **Ascent magazine's** Winter/2008 "Memory" issue will include a piece, "forget the self", about Chase Twichell's poetry.

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SPONSORING THE FESTIVAL 2009

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Enpuku-ji/Centre Zen de la Main wishes to collaborate with individuals, community organizations and businesses to build mutually rewarding, long-term relationships. We depend on your sponsorship in order to host the poets and events, as well as to ensure the festival's success for years to come. The following sponsorship packages can be tailored to individual interests. Enpuku-ji/Centre Zen de la Main is a charitable organization (#89594 6978 RR0001) and is able to issue tax receipts.

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

Major contributors: \$2,001+

Logo on all publicity materials: programmes (500) and posters (100)

Logo included in all print advertisements

Logo on all signage

Primary position (name, logo, hyperlink, and brief profile) on festival website

Two VIP invitations to all events, including private Poet Reception

Two copies of the 2007 festival poetry collection, *Words have no meaning*

Patrons: \$501 – 2,000

Logo on all publicity materials: programmes and posters

Logo included in all print advertisements

Logo on all signage

Name, logo, and hyperlink featured on festival website

Two VIP festival passports

One copy of the 2007 festival poetry collection, *Words have no meaning*

Sponsors: \$101 – 500

Logo on programmes, festival website

Two passes to one of the evening events

Friends: \$50 – 100

Name listed on website and programmes

Poet sponsors:

Sponsors may also support the festival by providing the funds to host one of our featured poets at the Montreal Zen Poetry Festival. Poet Sponsors will be invited to a private reception with the poets and will receive a signed copy of the poet's latest book. If you are interested in sponsoring one of our major poets, please contact **Myokyo** or **Ned Shepard**, festival coordinators, at sponsor@montrealzenpoetryfestival.ca.

In-kind donations:

As well as financial contributions to the festival, we welcome your in-kind donations to assist in our efforts to provide an outstanding event for the community. In-kind donations may include accommodation, meals and transportation (including air miles) for our participants. All of our in-kind donors will be listed on the website and in programmes. Other benefits will be offered appropriate to the level of in-kind sponsorship.

Deadline for publicity materials:

Please respond by February 10, 2009 in order to be recognized in our publicity materials.

Volunteers:

We are also seeking volunteers for pre-festival, during-the-festival, and post-festival work.

Contact:

Coordinators: **Myokyo**, **Ned Shepard**

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PROPOSED BUDGET 2009

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EXPENSES

INVITEES

Honoraria—poets, translators, hosts	6,200
Travel	4,450
Accommodation	1,500
Meal allowances	300
Local transportation	300

VENUES

Rooms and theatres	2,000
Equipment	400

PUBLICITY

Advertizing, website hosting	550
Printing: posters	400
Printing: programmes	250
Postage	150
Sponsor packages	100
Media releases	100

OTHER COSTS

Books and shipping	2,200
Literary brunch	700
Administration	400
Poet reception	200
Photography	200
Zen Centre breakfast	100

Total expenses: \$ 20,500

REVENUES

Sponsorship	10,000
Gifts-in-kind	4,500
Book sales	2,500
Ticket sales	3,000
Pre-festival fundraising events	500

Total Revenues: \$ 20,500

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SPONSORSHIP FORM 2009

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Thank you for contributing to the Montreal Zen Poetry Festival 2009!
We greatly appreciate your donation.

Name: _____
Company (if applicable): _____
Address: _____ City: _____
Province/state: _____ Postal code/zip: _____
Phone: _____ Fax: _____
Email: _____ Amount of sponsorship: _____

If you would like to sponsor an individual poet, please indicate which one, and in which manner you would like to help (\$ amount/airline ticket/air miles), and we will be in touch with you about details.

Please return this completed form with your cheque/money order, payable to "Centre Zen de la Main," to the address below via mail. Please include your company logo in .jpg format on a CD or send to sponsor@montrealzenpoetryfestival.ca.

The Montreal Zen Poetry Festival would not be possible without the kind and generous support of all of our sponsors, and we thank you all immensely.

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BIOGRAPHIES

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POETS

Peter Levitt was born in New York City on September 2, 1946. Mostly known as a poet, Peter has also published journalism, essays, fiction and translations from Chinese, Japanese and Spanish. The poet Robert Creeley has written that Peter Levitt's writing "sounds the honour of our common dance."

In 1989 Peter Levitt received the Lannan Foundation Literary Award in Poetry for works that "represent exceptional literary achievement, foster imaginative critical thinking, and call attention to essential humanistic values in creative, skilful and provocative ways." He is also a recipient of a Canada Council for the Arts Grant in Poetry for Established Writers.

In addition to his nine books of poetry, he has published the non-fiction books, *Fingerpainting on the Moon: Writing and Creativity as a Path to Freedom*, and *A Flock of Fools: Ancient Buddhist Tales of Wisdom and Laughter*, translated and retold with Kazuaki Tanahashi. A long-time practitioner of Zen, he edited *The Heart of Understanding* by Thich Nhat Hanh, and Jakusho Kwong's *No Beginning, No End: The Intimate Heart of Zen*.

In the autumn of 2008, Black Moss Press published Peter's new collection of poetry, *Within Within*, about which Governor General Award recipient, Robert Hilles, wrote, "These are complex, master works that know the world better than most. They reveal the interconnected fabric of it all in ways that will leave you stunned." Recently, Peter and Kazuaki Tanahashi completed the editing of a new translation of Dogen's *Shobogenzo, the Treasury of the True Dharma Eye*, which will be published by Shambhala Publications.

Peter has read from his work and led workshops in writing, creativity and spirituality at diverse venues for more than thirty years. Formerly an MFA faculty member in poetry for Antioch University, Peter Levitt currently teaches in the UBC Creative Writing Optional Residency MFA Program and leads private online writing workshops of his own. Peter and his family moved to Salt Spring Island, BC in 2000, where he leads the Salt Spring Zen Circle.

Shin Yu Pai, born in 1975, is a second-generation Taiwanese-American poet and photographer. She grew up in Southern California and received her MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, with additional graduate level studies conducted at the Naropa Institute where she received the Hiro Yamagata and Zora Neale Hurston Scholarships.

Shin Yu Pai is the author of *Haiku Not Bombs* (Booklyn Artists Alliance), *Works on Paper* (Convivio Bookworks), *Sightings: Selected Works [2000 - 2005]* (1913 Press), *The Love Hotel Poems* (Press Lorentz), *Unnecessary Roughness* (xPress(ed)), *Equivalence* (La Alameda), and *Ten Thousand Miles of Mountains and Rivers* (Third Ear Books). Her work is anthologized in *America Zen: A Gathering of Poets* (Bottom Dog Press) and *The Wisdom Anthology of North American Buddhist Poetry* (Wisdom Publications).

In addition to her work as a poet, Shin Yu has exhibited her visual work at The Paterson Museum, The Dallas Museum of Art, The McKinney Avenue Contemporary, and The Three Arts Club of Chicago. She has collaborated with individual artists and groups as diverse as Hedwig Dances and the Hudson Exploited Theater Company.

Shin Yu Pai has taught poetry at Southern Methodist University, The University of Texas at Dallas, The Writers Garret, Gemini Ink, Inkberry, The Poetry Center of Chicago, and Grub Street, and served as the 2004 Peter Taylor Fellow at Kenyon College. She has completed residencies at The MacDowell Colony, Provincetown Fine Arts Work Center, and the Taipei Artist Village.

The editor of *The Wisdom Anthology*, Andrew Schelling, situates a series of poems "Yes Yoko Ono" by Shin Yu Pai under the category of "mind-cracking paradoxes or illogical formulations of Zen koan literature." Schelling then uses her poems as a bridge, by way of simile, to classical Chinese influences on American poetics.

Currently, Shin Yu Pai lives with her husband in Seattle where she is pursuing graduate work in Sociocultural Anthropology and Museology at The University of Washington. Her current book project, *Adamantine*, is a collection of poems which examines the strength of stone and the human spirit's ability to transform itself through adversity.

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Chase Twichell was born in New Haven, Connecticut, in 1950. She received a bachelor's degree from Trinity College (Hartford) in 1973 and earned an M.F.A. from the University of Iowa in 1976. Her books of poetry include *Dog Language* (2005), *The Snow Watcher* (1998), *The Ghost of Eden* (1995), *Perdido* (1991), *The Odds* (1986), and *Northern Spy* (1981). From 1976 to 1984 she worked at Pennyroyal Press, and from 1986 to 1988 she co-edited the *Alabama Poetry Series*, published by University of Alabama Press. She also co-edited *The Practice of Poetry: Writing Exercises from Poets Who Teach* with Robin Behn (HarperCollins, 1992).

Chase has won awards from the Artists Foundation (Boston), the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, and the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts. She has taught at Princeton University, Goddard College, Warren Wilson College, the University of Alabama, and Hampshire College. In 1999 Chase founded Ausable Press, which was recently acquired by Copper Canyon Press. She lives in Keene, New York, with her husband, the novelist Russell Banks.

Many of Chase's poems are heavily influenced by her years as a Zen Buddhist student of John Daido Looi at Zen Mountain Monastery and her poetry in *The Snow Watcher* shows it. In an interview in the Fall 2003 issue of *Tricycle: The Buddhist Review*, Chase says, "Zazen and poetry are both studies of the mind. I find the internal pressure exerted by emotion and by a koan to be similar in surprising and unpredictable ways. Zen is a wonderful sieve through which to pour a poem. It strains out whatever's inessential."

Seido Ray Ronci is a poet, musician and Zen monk in the Rinzai tradition who currently teaches mythology, literary theory and postmodern American poetry at the University of Missouri-Columbia. He is the director of Hokoku-An Zendo in Columbia. He obtained a PhD from the University of Nebraska and attended the Naropa Institute as an apprentice to Allen Ginsberg.

Seido Ray Ronci has published five chapbooks of poetry including *The World of Difference* (Pressed Wafer Press, 2001) as well as a collection, *This Rented Body* (Pressed Wafer Press, 2006). Forthcoming is *The Skeleton of the Crow: New & Selected Poems* from Ausable Press. His poetry has appeared in *Ploughshare*, *Prairie-Schooner*, *Rattle*, *Iowa Review* and elsewhere, as well as anthologized in *American Zen: A Gathering of Poets*. Recipient of the AWP Intro Award, the Academy of American Poets Award and the John H Vreeland Award for Literary Composition from the University of Nebraska, he has also won scholarships to the Bread Loaf and Sewanee Writers' Conferences and the White River Writers' Workshop.

Fresno State poetry professor Dr. Timothy Skeen says of Seido Ray Ronci's poems, "[they] prove to me how it is still possible to show up for life every day in this world. Reading Ray's poems is one of the pleasures of this world and, all in all, helps to do for me what the best poetry ought to do: justify this life's high price of admission."

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TRANSLATORS

David Hinton's many translations have earned wide acclaim for recreating the classical Chinese poetry tradition as compelling contemporary poetry that conveys the actual texture and density of the originals. He is the first twentieth-century translator to translate the four seminal masterworks of *Chinese philosophy: Tao Te Ching* (2000), *Mencius* (1999), *The Analects of Confucius* (1998), and *Chuang Tzu: Inner Chapters* (1997). David's honours include a Guggenheim Fellowship, numerous National Endowment for the Arts and National Endowment for the Humanities fellowships, and both of the major awards given for poetry translation in the United States: the Harold Morton Landon Translation Award (Academy of American Poets) and the PEN Translation Award (PEN American Center). In 1997 he won The Landon Translation Award for his three volumes published in 1996: *The Selected Poems of Li Po* and *Bei Dao's Landscape Over Zero* (both published by New Directions), and *The Late Poems of Meng Chiao* (Princeton).

David says, "Ancient Chinese poetry has been a major part of modern American poetry, providing an ancient tradition much more useful to the avant-garde than the traditions of the West, for they are rooted in a completely discredited worldview. I approach the ancients from this perspective, following Pound, Rexroth and Snyder." His books include translations of the ancient poets Tu Fu, Li Po, T'ao Ch'ien, Meng Chiao, Po Chü-i, and Hsieh Ling-yün, as well as the contemporary poet Bei Dao, most notable representative of the Misty Poets, a group of Chinese poets who reacted against the restrictions of the Cultural Revolution. *Mountain Home: The Wilderness Poetry of Ancient China* (New Directions) emphasizes the Taoist and Ch'an roots of Chinese landscape poetry.

David Hinton studied Chinese at Cornell University and in Taiwan. He has spent several years in France and currently lives in East Calais, Vermont as an independent scholar and writer. His most recent work, *Classical Chinese Poetry: An Anthology*, a ground-breaking collection of nearly five hundred poems, was released in October 2008 by Farrar, Straus & Giroux.

Dennis Maloney is a poet and translator. He is also the editor and publisher of the widely respected White Pine Press in Buffalo, NY. His works of translation include: *The Stones of Chile* by Pablo Neruda, *The Landscape of Castile* by Antonio Machado, *Tangled Hair: Poems of Yosano Akiko*, *Dusk Lingers: Haiku of Issa*, and the forthcoming *Between the Floating Mist: Poems of Ryokan*, with Hide Oshiro, and *The Poet and the Sea* by Juan Ramon Jimenez, with Mary Berg. A number of volumes of his own poetry have been published including *Sitting in Circles*, published in Japan in a bilingual Edition, *The Pine Hut Poems* and *The Map Is Not the Territory: Poems & Translations* (Unicorn Press, 1990). Dennis co-edited, with Jerome P. Seaton, *A Drifting Boat: Chinese Zen Poetry*.

Since the birth of White Pine Press as a non-profit literary publishing house in 1973, Dennis has made a wide range of international voices available in English, publishing everything from Latin American women writers and Korean Zen poets to literary works from Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Albania. Not only impressive for its continual commitment to publishing lesser-known works in translation, White Pine Press's list of publications also include Nobel Prize Laureates William Golding, Juan Ramon Jimenez, Gabriela Mistral and Pablo Neruda.

In 2004 White Pine Press celebrated the centennial of Pablo Neruda's birth by publishing a bilingual edition of the entire text of his 1966 work *Un Casa en la Arena, The House in the Sand*, translated by Dennis Maloney and Clark M. Zlotchew.

Dennis was born in Buffalo, New York, resides there, and, in addition to running White Pine Press, writes and translates poetry, including tanka, an ancient form of Japanese poetry. He recently retired from work as a landscape architect.

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SPECIAL GUEST

Red Pine, a.k.a. Bill Porter, uninspired by the prospect of an academic career, dropped out of Columbia University halfway through a Ph.D. program in anthropology, and moved to a Buddhist monastery in Taiwan. After four years with the monks and nuns, he found employment at English-language radio stations in Taiwan and Hong Kong, and produced more than a thousand programs about his travels in China. His published translations include *The Collected Songs of Cold Mountain*, *The Zen Works of Stonehouse* (Shih-wu), *Guide to Capturing a Plum Blossom* by Sung Po-jen, *The Zen Teaching of Bodhidharma*, *The Diamond Sutra: The Perfection of Wisdom*, *The Heart Sutra: The Womb of Buddhas*, *The Platform Sutra: The Zen Teaching of Hui-neng*, and *Lao-tzu's Tao Te Ching*. He is also the author of *Road to Heaven: Encounters with Chinese Hermits*.

Red Pine's recent project, *Zen Baggage: A Pilgrimage to China*, released in December 2008, is an account of his journey through the heart of China, from Beijing to Hong Kong, on a pilgrimage to sites associated with the first six patriarchs of Zen. He weaves together historical background, interviews with Zen masters, and translations of the earliest known records of Zen, along with personal vignettes. Red Pine's account captures the transformations taking place at religious centers in China but also the abiding legacy they have somehow managed to preserve. He brings wisdom and humour to every situation, whether visiting ancient caves containing the most complete collection of Buddhist texts ever uncovered, enduring a six-hour Buddhist ceremony, searching in vain for the ghost in his room, waking up the monk in charge of martial arts at Shaolin Temple, or meeting the abbess of China's first Zen nunnery.

Red Pine lives in Port Townsend, Washington and is currently working on *In Such Hard Times: the Poetry of Wei Ying-wu*, to be released in May 2009.

HOSTS

Erin Moure is one of Canada's most eminent and respected poets, and a translator from French, Spanish, Galician, and Portuguese. Winner of the Governor General's Award for *Furious*, the Pat Lowther Memorial Award for *Domestic Fuel*, and the AM Klein Poetry Prize for *Little Theatres* (which has also been published in Spain in Galician translation as *Teatriños*), Moure has published twelve books of poetry, including *A Frame of the Book*, co-published in the U.S. by Sun and Moon Press, and five books of poetry in translation, including *Sheep's Vigil* by a Fervent Person by Fernando Pessoa, shortlisted for the 2002 Griffin Poetry Prize and the 2002 City of Toronto Book Prize. Moure lives in Montreal.

Victor Sýgen Hori, born in Canada, received his doctoral degree in philosophy from Stanford University in 1976 and, that same year, was ordained a Rinzai Zen monk in Kyoto, Japan. After devoting the next thirteen years to training in monasteries in Japan, he returned to Canada and to the academic life in 1990. He is currently Associate Professor of Japanese religions in the Faculty of Religious Studies at McGill University.

Prof. Hori has translated *The Ten Oxherding Pictures: Lectures* by Yamada Mumon Roshi (2004) and co-edited *The Wheel and the Web: Collected Papers of the Teaching Buddhism Conference* (with Richard P. Hayes and Mark Shields, 2002) and *Neglected Themes and Hidden Variations* (with Melissa Curley, 2008). He is the author of *Zen Sand: The Book of Capping Phrases for Koan Practice* (2003). A new book, *Wild Geese: Studies of Buddhism in Canada* (co-edited with Alec Soucy and John Harding), is forthcoming in 2009.