

Tuesday, 03 April 2012 15:22

Local Poets Weigh In on the Power of Language to Celebrate National Poetry Month.

Written by **NoHo**

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April is National Poetry Month, a time of celebration, where we are reminded of the power of our words. Words as weapons can slaughter even the strongest souls, while the gentle, healing waters of words can smooth over the most rugged of stones. Poetry is the bridge we build through emotion, wisdom and truth, a way to better understand the world and create a universal unity through the common thread of inspiration.

"The truly creative mind in any field is no more than this: A human creature born abnormally, inhumanely sensitive. To them... a touch is a blow, a sound is a noise, a misfortune is a tragedy, a joy is an ecstasy, a friend is a lover, a lover is a god, and failure is death. Add to this cruelly delicate organism the overpowering necessity to create, create, create -- so that without the creating of music or poetry or books or buildings or something of meaning, their very breath is cut off... They must create, must pour out creation. By some strange, unknown, inward urgency they are not really alive unless they are creating."

-Pearl S. Buck, *US novelist in China (1892 - 1973)*

In celebration of National Poetry Month, some of the most prolific poets of the LA poetry scene weigh in on why poetry is a necessary element in art, culture & community.

Ivan Dryer; poet and photographer is a widely published, award-winning writer, a filmmaker and the founder of the Laserium at the Griffith observatory.

"Poetry is a distillation of experience and understanding, compressing prose to its fundamental essence, sometimes expressing the otherwise inexpressible, revealing color in the black-and-white of print. The life of the mind would be so much poorer in its absence. (Hopefully, Mr. Eliot was wrong about April being 'the cruellest month'.)" - Ivan Dryer

ETYMORPHOSIS

A poem is when
Words, like atoms,
Grow together
To make a living thing

Ivan Dryer © 2012

Commencing on April 15th 2012 at 3 PM at the McGroarty Arts Center of Tujung Maja Trochimczyk – the 6th poet Laureate of Sunland Cerritos will step down and crown a new poet with a laurel wreath during a colorfully elaborate ceremony.

She expresses the importance of dedicating an entire month to poetry in the following passage:

"Poetry is the way of expressing a profound understanding of life. It is a personal and idiosyncratic art that allows us to meet others at the level of their most human and intimate self-revelation. Creating and sharing poetry is a key to happiness and should be celebrated year-round, not only one month per year. Becoming aware of the importance of poetry - the only human creation that remains for millenia, not just centuries - is worth the effort!"

- Maja Trochimczyk, Ph.D.

Definition: Writing

in response to George Jisho Robertson's essay "Path of Poesis"

It is not like splitting the match in four
or counting devils on its round head –
none of this matters, really

see the sunrise above Strawberry Peak
and Mount Disappointment shimmer
on the puffy underbelly of summer clouds

be dazed by bright ripples on a shallow canyon stream
shining like scales of a carp waiting to be killed
in a bathtub before Polish Easter

listen to the roosting birds at dusk,
the murder of crows covering tree branches
with angular shapes, dense Xenakis chords,

black clusters, dissonant, intense. They bathe
in the river, sit on a concrete bank with wet wings
outstretched, drooping with water, docile

like tattooed crowds resting, sweating
on sandy beach towels in Santa Monica,
waiting for a tsunami that will not come

shifting the gaze is important, from the navel
to cosmos – not how we fail in a multitude of ways,
but what graces hide in galaxies

that collide amidst exploding supernovas,
on thousands of inhabitable planets
we'll count but never touch –

we'll touch but never count
the veins on the petals of the rose
shriveling from desert heat, just opened

Not us, then, look around, beyond,
catch what's already gone, hold it
in your hand – the spark, the passing
Maja Trochimczyk © 2012

Radomir Vojtech Luza is a popular poet and host of Unbuckled: NOHO Poetry held at T.U. Studios at 10943 Camarillo St., North Hollywood the first Saturday of every month. On April 7th, 2012 from 4-6 PM Radomir will host the open reading and featured poet Apryl Skies, founder of Edgar & Lenore's Publishing House.

"National Poetry Month is important to the community because it underscores the importance of poetry not only to people who read it and teach it, but also those who have never been exposed to it. It is this segment of the population that screams for more art and poetry and is simply not being satisfied because our schools don't teach enough of it, press and media do not give it the attention it or to the poets who roar and recite it truly deserve."
- Radomir Vojtech Luza

My Friend Poetry

I can depend on you like a long lost retriever
You are the reason for my existence

In your rivers and lakes
I find my eyes

In your trees and valleys
My ears

On your troubled mountains
My pockmarked zoo

For a friend
Does not abandon another

In jungles of down
And avenues of rot

Only in heaven
Where we both wear uniforms of
Saturated sin

Radomir Vojtech Luza © 2012

E.R. Sanchez is an LA poet, a published contributor to the pierce College Anthology Tentulia and several other renowned publications.

"National Poetry Month represents us as a whole. Every facet of society can be interpreted by using poetry, and it would be a tragedy to not have a month dedicated to poetry; it represents our ability to communicate with the past, present, and the future...Poetry must not be forgotten or marginalized, because it has been an essential part of human culture since it was used to pass along oral history. The oral history of the past evolved into poetry, the best tool of interpretation humans have ever known...If it wasn't for National Poetry Month, I may have never discovered Allen Ginsberg's poem entitled "Howl," never discovered the inspiration his poem gave me, and never discovered my passion for expressing myself through poetry."

-E.R. Sanchez

Ode To Howl

My generation's skull shines with a special brilliance,
ears pierced for wearing bling,
faces concealed, made youthful by Mac makeup,
not depressed by the bleakness of
a broken staircase made slippery by summer storms.

My generation cheats past textbooks,
the pages don't A D D up quick enough,
ignoring the knowledge that is beyond the History Channel,
thinking life's obstacles are too boring if not uploaded to YouTube,
running from feeling unimportant is comforting
as smartphones film them cramming into a teabag filled with 3DHD cameras,
my generation stares at their computer as they are lowered
into a tea kettle filled with scalding water.
The stages of burning skin are purely
for entertainment.

My generation laughs in medicated circles,
sleeping off last night's intoxicant,
frustrated,
because their life will not be exposed by an unauthorized biography,
written by a disgruntle personal assistant,
scrutinized by media while inspiring reality television shows.

My generation stares down at their smartphone,
stepping toward a broken staircase that hangs over Moloch's volcano,
the stairs disappear into a black storm cloud.
Television tells my generation,
it's okay, keep moving,
the stairs lead to success and the rain improves beauty.

Summer storms maintain the slip of the broken staircase,
guaranteeing my generation's fall,
streaming it live onto Facebook while they tweet the approaching temperature,
watching themselves falling into the lava
as they stare at their palms wondering why the smartphone is melting,
knowing something is wrong,
yet too distracted to change,
my generation continues
satisfied.

E.R. Sanchez © 2012

Celebrate National Poetry month with us by reading a book and exposing yourself to poetry you may not have otherwise delved into. The poetry community of Los Angeles is flourishing in talent and with self-publishing and small press on the rise poets are now able to grab the poetic reins of creativity and present a collection of poetry set to their own unique vision far easier than ever before. Pick up Howl by Ginsberg, Dreamwork by Mary Oliver, Letters to a Young Poet by Rilke or visit the Edgar Allan Poet Master Archives to read some of the most talented modern poets of the decade.

Apryl Skies © 2012

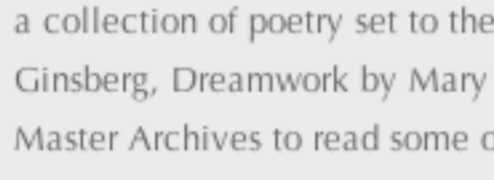
-- Apryl Skies--
-Author -Poet- Filmmaker-
www.EdgarAllanPoet.com

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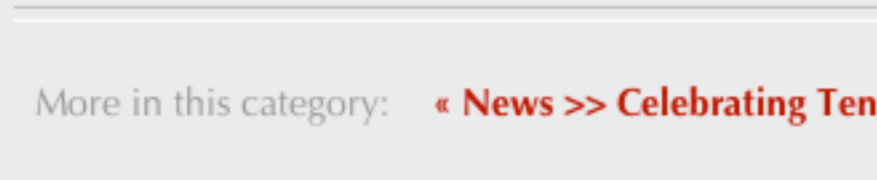
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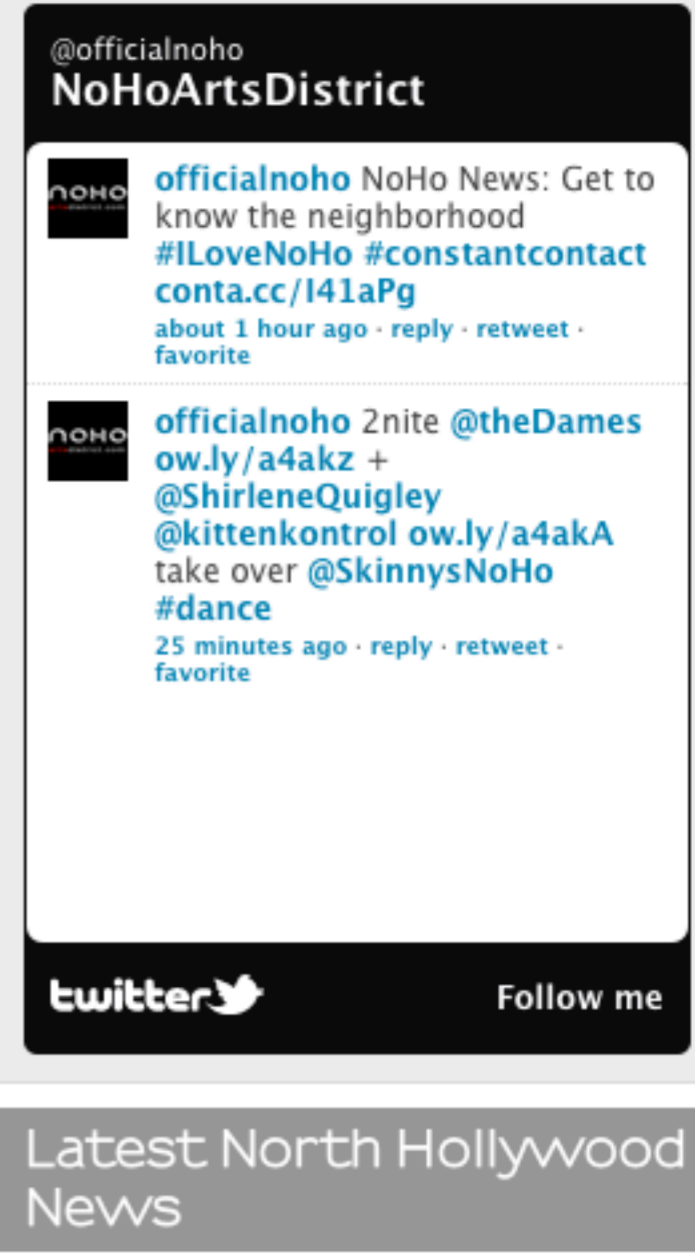


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