



TEACHERS & WRITERS

FALL 2006 • VOLUME 38 • NUMBER 1



Teachers & Writers Collaborative

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 2020, New York, NY 10018-6507

Address Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

Consolidated

Mailing Corp.

The Bechtel Issue

Bechtel winner Sarah PORTER on how creative writing creates us
Chris MALCOMB, Bechtel finalist, on teaching fiction at San Quentin
Questions and answers with Edward HIRSCH at the Joshua Ringel Memorial Reading
Melanie Maria GOODREAU on staging an opera with a class of Brooklyn fourth-graders
Sarah FAY on the role of writers in the schools

CONTRIBUTORS



Doug Beube (*front and back cover art*) is a visual artist who works in book-works, collage, installation, sculpture, and photography. He curates a private collection entitled *The Book Under Pressure* for Allan Chasanoff in New York City, which utilizes books for purposes other than their utilitarian form. A monograph of Beube's artwork with essays by several writers will be available in the winter of 2007. He has a number of upcoming exhibitions for fall and this coming spring and will be teaching a workshop at the Penland School of Crafts, Penland, North Carolina, in the summer of 2007.

Sarah Fay's interviews, essays, and reviews have been published in *The Paris Review*, *BOMB*, *The Missouri Review*, and *Time Out/New York*. Her interview with the Spanish novelist Javier Marías will appear in the winter issue of *The Paris Review*. Currently, she is at work on an interview with the Indian novelist and scholar Pankaj Mishra and a book of nonfiction, *Autism Radio*.

Melanie Maria Goodreaux is a playwright, poet, and native of New Orleans. Her plays, including *Saydee and Deelores*, *Walter. Bullets. And Binoculars*, and *Ka-trina Who?!* have been performed at Yale University, The Lillian Theater in Los Angeles, The Nuyorican Poets Café and The Chelsea Playhouse in New York City, and at the National Black Arts Festival in Atlanta. She is a freelance teaching artist who teaches creative writing and drama in all the boroughs of New York City with Teachers & Writers Collaborative and Creative Theatrics.

Edward Hirsch is a poet and an interpreter of modern poetry. He is the author of six books of poems: *For the Sleepwalkers* (1981); *Wild Gratitude* (1986), which won the National Book Critics Circle Award; *The Night Parade* (1989); *Earthly Measures* (1994); *On Love* (1998); and *Lay Back the Darkness* (2003). Hirsch has also written four prose books, including the 1999 best seller *How to Read a Poem and Fall in Love with Poetry* and *Poet's Choice* (2006). He has received the Prix de Rome, a Guggenheim Fellowship, the American Academy of Arts and Letters Award for Literature, and a MacArthur Fellowship. He taught for 18 years at the University of Houston and is now the fourth president of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation.

Chris Malcomb has taught English at the Prison University Project at San Quentin, sixth grade at Prospect Sierra School in El Cerrito, CA, and writing & meditation workshops at the Bay Area Teacher Training Institute. His essays have appeared in the *San Francisco Chronicle Magazine*, *The East Bay Monthly* and *The Sun*. He is a frequent contributor to KQED radio's *Perspectives* series and is currently working on his first book, a collection of essays exploring how classrooms—both formal and informal—provide opportunities for spiritual growth. He lives in Berkeley, California.

Sarah Porter's stories and poems have appeared in *Open City*, *Sonaweb*, and *The New Review of Literature*. She teaches creative writing in the New York public schools. Currently enrolled in City College's M.F.A. writing program and working on a novel, *Umber*, she expects to complete both next year. She also VJ's under the name The Housewives' Guide to Anatomy and with the media collectives Fort Da and Image Node. She lives in Brooklyn with her husband, the multimedia artist Todd Polenberg, and two cats.

Teachers & Writers Collaborative Has Moved

Teachers & Writers Collaborative and the Center for Imaginative Writing have moved to a new home in Manhattan's historic Garment District. Our space continues to offer a library, meeting space, and other resources for writers, educators, and students. Teachers & Writers is open from 9:00 AM-5:00 PM, Monday through Friday, and we often host readings, book parties, and other literary arts activities in the evening. Check our website, www.twc.org, for information about upcoming events, and please visit us when you are in the neighborhood!

Teachers & Writers Collaborative
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 2020
New York, NY 10018-6507
212-691-6590 (phone)
212-675-0171 (fax)
888-266-5789 (toll-free number for book orders)
info@twc.org, www.twc.org

Teachers & Writers, Fall 2006, volume 38, Number 1. Copyright © 2006 by Teachers & Writers Collaborative, Inc. *Teachers & Writers* is published four times per year by Teachers & Writers Collaborative, 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 2020, New York, NY 10018. Telephone: (212) 691-6590 or toll-free (888) BOOKS-TW. Fax (for institutional purchase orders only): (212) 675-0171. Institutional subscription rate (for schools, universities, and libraries): \$40/4 issues. Individual subscription rate: \$20/4 issues. For additional information, contact books@twc.org.

Susan Karwoska, *Editor*. Josh Neufeld, *Designer*. Printed by The Covington Group, Kansas City, Missouri. ISSN 0739-0084. This publication is available on microfilm from University Microfilms International, 300 North Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106. Teachers & Writers Collaborative is a Partner of the Library of Congress.

Teachers & Writers Collaborative Staff: Amy Swauger, *Director*; Bruce Morrow, *Associate Director*; Barbara Jade Triton, *Director of Operations*; Jeffrey Rosales, *Program Director*.

Board of Directors: Wesley Brown, Colin Greer, Patricia Hampl, Simon Kilmurry, Herbert Kohl, Nancy Larson Shapiro, Bernard Levine, Phillip Lopate, Walter Dean Myers, Ron Padgett, David Rogers, Marly Rusoff, Steven Schrader, Robert Silvers, and Carmen Valle.

T&W Writers in Residence: Grisel Acosta, Frank Algarín, Yasmin Alwan, Allison Amend, Olivia Birdsall, Chris Brandt, Matthew Burgess, Phyllis Cappello, Andy Clausen, Ambica Cooper, Cynthia Cruz, Yasmin Dalisay, Frank Damico, Shea Dean, Matt De la Peña, Rachel De Woskin, Sarah Dohrmann, Alvin Eng, Sandra Maria Esteves, Corie Feiner, Federico Fraguada, Joanna Fuhrman, Melanie Maria Goodreaux, Leonore Gordon, Ann Greene, Alba Hernández, Nicole Hefner, David Hollander, Susan Hoover, Vicki Hudspith, Frank Ingrassiotta, Dave Johnson, Stephen M. Joseph, Dean Kostos, Jane Hohenberger LeCroy, Sarah McCarthy, Renee McRae, Sheila Maldonado, Sherry Mason, George Lee Miles, Rosemary Moore, Linda Morel, Martha Otis, Margaret Parker, Francisco Perez, Raymond Ramirez, Bushra Rehman, Samuel Reynolds, Carmen Rivera, Bertha Rogers, Colette Samman, Ilka Scobie, Margie Ann Stanko, Mark Statman, David Stoler, Rachelle Street, Tara Tandlich, Jim Tolan, Stacey Toro, Karen Ulrich, Mercer Warriner, J. Kathleen White, Gia Rae Winsryg-Ulmer, Sarah Wolff, and Jie-Song Zhang.

T&W Funders: Teachers & Writers programs are made possible in part by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, The New York State Council on the Arts, The New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, the Manhattan Borough President's Office, and the Manhattan City Council Delegation. Teachers & Writers Collaborative is especially grateful to The Cerimon Fund for generous support of the magazine. We would also like to thank the following foundations, corporations, and individuals: The Bydale Foundation, Carnegie Corporation of New York, Con Edison, Dry Family Foundation, E.H.A. Foundation, Agnes Gund & Daniel Shapiro, Jeannette and H. Peter Kreindler Charitable Trust, M&O Foundation, J.P. Morgan Chase Foundation, NBC, New York Times Company Foundation, David Rockefeller Fund, Scheide Fund, Smith Barney (Citigroup Foundation), Starbucks Foundation, The Steele-Reese Foundation, Tin Man Fund, and Verizon Foundation.

Visit Teachers & Writers' online bookstore
www.twc.org/pubs

