

## POETRY IN MOTION® LA 2001-2002



Poetry lover and Division 18 Bus Operator David Teklehaimanot displays poetry bus card about to be installed in Metro buses.

### MTA Metro Art and Poetry Society of America Launch "Poetry In Motion" Series For 2001-2002

By BRENT ZERGER

August 17, 2001 - MTA Metro Art and the Poetry Society of America will continue their co-presentation of *Poetry in Motion*® L.A. for the next 12 months. The literary arts program is aimed at bringing poetry to more than one million Metro Bus riders daily.

Over the life of the 2001-2002 series, more than 26,000 bus cards bearing the works of 24 locally and internationally recognized poets will be mounted on the interiors of Metro buses.

Complementing the bus cards are 12 poems from the series that will be printed as bookmarks and distributed free on Metro Bus, Metro Rail, and through county public libraries. Live reading events are being planned for National Poetry Month in April 2002.

The Poetry Society of America selected the 24 poems for the 2001-2002 series based on several criteria, including diversity of the poets' cultural and historical backgrounds and relevance to the local transit region.

Included are works by well-known authors like Philip Levine and Adrienne Rich, as well as noted Southern California poets David St. John, Carol Muske, and Aleida Rodríguez. Most of the poems are by living writers; several are in Spanish.

*Poetry in Motion* enlivens the public transit experience by offering Metro Bus riders an opportunity for reflection and inspiration. Responding to previous *Poetry in Motion* selections, a Metro customer of 14 years commented, "Finding a

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poem on the bus is like a gift. It makes people realize they are not alone. I love the fact that the poems are at eye level because the words capture people."

Begun as a co-production between the Poetry Society of America and MTA New York City Transit in 1992, *Poetry in Motion* currently is active in major

public transit systems throughout the United States, including Baltimore, Philadelphia, Chicago, Atlanta, Dallas and Portland. Metro Art has partnered with the Poetry Society of America to present *Poetry in Motion* since 1998.

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On the way, a muse to soothe your soul.

from **Office Hour**

"We hear the music in the attention of this hour.  
What a dream - When I drove home  
the 10 East was jammed with trucks and exhaust  
and the San Gabriel mountains a vague vision.  
That hill will have to stay in a poem  
for awhile. But think, without  
the blaring horns and broken glass, without  
these messages of hope spread across my desk  
and the shadow who fills the barrel  
of this pen, I could have missed it all."

--Carol Lem