



NEWS

April 9, 1997

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MTA PRESENTS A TOUCH OF THE POET (AND ARTIST) –ON BOOKMARKS. ON METRO BUSES AND TRAINS DURING APRIL, POETRY MONTH

The MTA is distributing 700,000 bookmarks during April to celebrate Poetry Month.

The bookmarks, which feature the work of seven teams of poets and artists, will be available on all Metro Buses and Metro Rail, and in Los Angeles City and County libraries.

A public bus may seem an unlikely spot to find poetry, but not to Sesshu Foster, one of the poets whose work was selected for the bookmark series. "Poetry, like mass transit, should be available to everyone," Foster said. "Not just to university professors, or people who died 200 years ago. Whatever is good about poetry should be a part of people's ordinary lives."

Metro Art commissioned the poets and artists after receiving 120 proposals from across the country. The seven winning works were chosen by a panel of literary and arts professionals.

The selected bookmarks are the work of the following poet and artist teams: Sesshu Foster/David Bellos, Terry Wolverton/Susan Sifton, Rubén Martínez/Pedro Meyer, Janet Sternburg/Jo Ann Callis, Patty Sue Jones/Laura Stickney, J. Raúl Plasencia/Leo Padilla, Adrienne Su/Hilary Baker.

"Poetry and art enhance our lives," said Maya Emsden, Director of Metro Art. "They belong in places like public transit, where people come to meet and to travel together. We are very pleased such highly respected artists and poets are amongst the winners."

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Five of the winning poets will read their poetry, and poets and artists together will sign their bookmarks, at a "signing" session in front of the MTA building, at Vignes and Cesar Chavez, at noon on Tuesday, April 15th.

MTA-082

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