



April 2, 2002
CONTACT: Gayle Anderson, Marc Littman
MTA Media Relations
(213) 922-2702/922-2700

APRIL 2002

***Poetry in Motion*® L.A. gets on board MTA Metro Rail for National Poetry Month**

Poets to stage live readings at rush hour at Union Station and on board Metro Rail subway, trains and stations

- Breaking through the rush hour monotone, acclaimed L.A.-based poets will be riding the rails, lifting the heart, and inviting Metro Rail riders to cherish the moment in celebration of National Poetry Month.
- **FIRST READING:** Union Station East Portal **Friday, April 5**, 4 to 6 p.m.

In a transit system brimming with visual splendor created by the artists and architects of 50 Metro Rail stations and the Gateway Transit Center at Union Station, another muse is soothing the soul of Los Angeles commuters.

In celebration of National Poetry Month in April, 15 acclaimed poets are staging live readings of poetry in the Metro system at rush hour from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., beginning with a staged reading in the East Portal of Union Station on Friday, April 5, and on board the Metro Red Line, Blue Line and Green Line on the following three consecutive Tuesdays. The readings are a collaborative effort of the Poetry Society of America and MTA as part of the current *Poetry in Motion*® L.A. literary arts program on board Metro Buses.

Featured are readings by Elena Karina Bryne, noted poet and the regional director of the Poetry Society of America, as well as acclaimed L.A.-based poets Chris Abani, Briony Bax, George Chacon, Jennifer Kwon Dobbs, Amy Gerstler, Eloise Klein Healy, Larry Jaffe, John Kovatch, Gina Lain, Suzanne Lummis, Ellyn Maybe, Aleida Rodríguez, Antonieta Viallamil and Stephen Yenser.

Admission to each event is free, although valid fare is required to travel on Metro Rail for the readings on April 9, 16, and 23.

Continuing to find new and expressive ways of integrating art into the transit experience, MTA Metro Art has re-ignited a fiery union of public transit and *Poetry in Motion*® L.A. to produce a moveable feast of live readings by the acclaimed poets whose work appears throughout the year on placards installed in some 2,258 Metro Buses.

Co-sponsored by MTA and the Poetry Society of America, the readings personify and extend the experience of *Poetry in Motion*® L.A. Over the life of the 2001-2002 series, more than 26,000 bus cards are inscribed with the works of 24 locally and internationally recognized poets and bring poetry to more than one million bus riders a day.

The literary arts program is supplemented by live readings during April and the distribution of some 120,000 bookmarks that replicate 11 of the poetry bus cards. The bookmarks are distributed on Metro Buses and Metro Rail trains and are available at Los Angeles County Libraries.

//MORE: SCHEDULE AND LINE-UP

METRO RAIL POETRY READINGS PAGE 2

No reservations necessary. Admission to each event is free, although valid fare is required to travel on Metro Rail for the readings on April 9, 16, and 23.

Schedule and poetic line-up of Metro Rail readings in April are as follows:

Friday, April 5, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

UNION STATION (East Portal): Celebrated local poets **Amy Gerstler, Eloise Klein Healy, Suzanne Lummis, Aleida Rodríguez, Antonietta Villamil,** and **Stephen Yenser,** read from their works included in the current *Poetry in Motion*® L.A. series. **Union Station East Portal is located at** Gateway Transit Center, 801 N. Vignes St., or through 800 N. Alameda St entrance to Union Station in Downtown.

Tuesday, April 9, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

METRO RED LINE: Departing from Union Station, **801 N. Vignes St.,** at 4 p.m., poets **Larry Jaffe, Jennifer Kwon Dobbs,** and **Deborah Elder Brown** will wander the stations and trains of the Metro Red Line to read selected poems from the *Poetry in Motion*® series until 6 p.m. Gateway Plaza East Portal, Vignes & Cesar Chavez streets, Downtown.

Tuesday, April 16, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

METRO BLUE LINE: Departing from the 7th Street/Metro Center/Julian Dixon Station, **660 S. Figueroa St.,** Downtown, at 4 p.m., poets **Elena Karina Byrne, John Kovatch, Gina Lain,** and **Ellen Maybe,** will wander the stations and trains of the Metro Blue Line to read selected poems from the *Poetry in Motion*® series until 6 p.m..

Tuesday, April 23, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

METRO GREEN LINE: Departing from the Imperial/Wilmington/Rosa Parks Station, **11651 Wilmington Ave.,** at 4 p.m., poets **Chris Abani, Briony Bax, Elena Karina Byrne,** and **George Chacon,** will wander the stations and trains of the Metro Green Line to read selected poems from the *Poetry in Motion*® series until 6 p.m.

INFORMATION: www.mta.net/press/pressroom

MTA Metro Art (213) 922-ARTS (922-4278)