



## Metro presents Live Poetry Readings to Rush-hour Commuters at Union Station April 30

- Union Station is stage for annual National Poetry Month readings as poets invite rush-hour commuters to cherish the moment during National Poetry Month of April
- **Thursday, April 30, 2009 -- 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.**  
**Location:** Union Station East Portal  
One Gateway Plaza, downtown Los Angeles 90012

In a tribute to National Poetry Month and the 11th anniversary of Poetry in Motion® readings in Los Angeles, Metro and the Poetry Society of America present acclaimed California poets **Elena Karina Byrne, Brendan Constantine** and **Mindy Nettifee** in a live poetry reading during the afternoon rush hour, April 30, at Union Station in downtown Los Angeles.

Commemorative bookmarks, inscribed with the poetry of Emily Dickinson and Octavio Paz, will be distributed to commuters, passers-by and poetry lovers.

The program is co-sponsored by the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro).

The rush-hour readings personify and extend the experience of Poetry in Motion® L.A., where the work of poets inscribed on placards placed aboard nearly 2,400 Metro buses brings poetry to more than one million bus riders a day.

Metro, in partnership with Poetry in Motion® L.A., has staged annual rush-hour readings during National Poetry Month since 1998. The alternative space in the context of a transit system has become a welcome platform for the spoken and written word, delivered to delighted audiences by published poets in great performances.

Metro seeks to change public perception about transit and to transform the customer's experience through excellence in art and design. Central to this objective, Metro Creative Services includes the agency's in-house design studio, which creates

**April 17, 2009**

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April 30, 2009: L.A. poets **Elena Karina Byrne, Brendan Constantine** and **Mindy Nettifee** will invoke the muse to lift the heart, soothe the spirit and invite Metro riders, commuters and passers-by to cherish the moment during rush-hour readings at Union Station in downtown Los Angeles, beginning at 4 p.m.

The poets will be presented by Metro Art in recognition of "April is National Poetry Month." Admission is free.

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< Poet Brendan Constantine at Union Station readings.  
Photo by Peter Watkinson

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About the poets:

- **Elena Karina Byrne** is a teacher, editor, Poetry Consultant and Moderator for The Los Angeles Times Festival of Books, and former 12-year Regional Director of the Poetry Society of America, and is now Literary Programs Director for The Ruskin Art Club and MOCA's Night Vision programs. She also works on documentaries with Red Car Studios. A 12-time Pushcart nominee, her many publications include, *The Yale Review*, *Paris Review*, *American Poetry Review*, and *Best American Poetry 2005*. Books include: *The Flammable Bird* (Zoo /Tupelo Press 2002); *MASQUE* (Tupelo Press, 2008). Forthcoming works include *This Fable Language* (2011), *Voyeur Hour* (art/poetry), and a collection of essays entitled, *Beautiful Insignificance* (2011).
- **Brendan Constantine** is a three-time finalist for the National Poetry Series. His work has appeared in *Ploughshares*, *The Los Angeles Review*, *The Cortland Review*, *ArtLife*, *Runes*, & *The Cider Press Review*, among other journals. New work can be found in the anthologies *Carving In Bone* (2007 MoonTide Press) and *The Last American Valentine* (2008 WB Press). A Los Angeles native, Brendan enjoys an active role in his city's poetry communities. He is a regular guest of both the Los Angeles and Orange County poetry festivals and in 2002 was nominee for Poet Laureate of California. His book-length collection, *Letters To Guns*, is out February 2009 from Red Hen Press. A popular performer and teacher, he is currently poet in residence at the Windward School in west Los Angeles.
- **Mindy Nettifee** is a performance poet and activist living in Long Beach, California. Her work is alternately funny and dead-serious feisty as it takes on the contemporary

Metro's brand communications, and the agency's art and design excellence programs, which commission wide-ranging projects by visual artists and promote overall design quality of customer environments.

From intelligently designed, user-friendly customer information, engaging and effective advertising and a newly designed fleet of buses and trains to large scale site-specific artworks by world-class artists and live poetry readings, Metro employs art and design to create a sense of place, engage transit riders, and improve the quality of life throughout Southern California.

For more information about Metro Art and its free docent guided tours, visit [www.metro.net/art](http://www.metro.net/art) or call Metro Art at 213-922-4ART.

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experience of women, the perils of self-actualization, and the nature of power in America. She has been hailed alternately as "the future of poetry" (Bob Holman) and "the next Dorothy Parker" (Poetic Diversity Magazine.) After competing and coaching in the national poetry slam for five years representing Long Beach and Orange County, she has toured with her work both nationally and internationally, reading everywhere from New York City to Munich, and recently joined the prestigious ranks of the LA Newer Poets. She is a Pushcart Prize nominee and her latest book *Sleepyhead Assassins* is out on Moon Tide Press. She is currently serves as board president of the Write Now Poetry Society, co-produces a major contemporary poetry theatre project called *The Drums Inside Your Chest*, and produces the Long Beach Spoken Word Festival.