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**THE BOSTON ATHENÆUM PRESENTS  
PAINTER + POET: George Nama & Charles Simic  
Feb. 10—April 10, 2010**

Exhibition uses work of George Nama to illuminate poetry of Charles Simic

(BOSTON – Jan. 25, 2010) The Boston Athenæum presents “PAINTER + POET: George Nama and Charles Simic” Feb. 10 through April 10, 2010, in the Athenæum’s Norma Jean Calderwood Gallery, located at 10 ½ Beacon Street on Beacon Hill near the State House. Admission is FREE and open to the public. Gallery hours are Mondays and Wednesdays 9 a.m. – 8 p.m., Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Saturdays 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. For more information, call (617) 227-0270 or visit [www.bostonathenaeum.org](http://www.bostonathenaeum.org).

This new exhibition, the result of a collaboration that began several years ago between the two artists, features a selection of Nama’s recent etchings, sculptures, gouaches, and artist’s books that have been inspired by and give visual illumination to Simic’s poetry. It is curated by David Dearing, Susan Morse Hilles Curator of Paintings and Sculpture.

George Nama is a New York artist who specializes in expressive abstracted figures, rendered in a variety of media, that interpret the works of major writers such as Simic, Yves Bonnefoy, and Alfred Brendel. His first one-artist exhibition was held at the Carnegie Institute Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, in 1963; since that time he has had shows at Shepherd & Derom Galleries in New York, Jack Rutberg Fine Arts, Los Angeles, and in galleries in Brussels, Munich, Vevey, and Paris, among others. His works are in major institutions, including the Boston Athenæum, the Brooklyn Museum, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Morgan Library, and Yale University Art Gallery. Nama’s versatility and generosity have made him the perfect mentor to and teacher of new generations of artists. For many years, he was on the

faculty of the School of the National Academy of Design in New York. He lives in Long Island, New York.

Charles Simic is a poet, essayist and translator. He has been honored with a Wallace Stevens Award, a Pulitzer Prize, two PEN Awards, and a MacArthur Fellowship. Since 1967 he has published numerous collections of poems, the latest of which, *That Little Something*, was released in spring 2008. A collection entitled *Sixty Poems* was published in honor of his appointment as United States Poet Laureate. He has also published a number of prose books, most recently *Memory Piano* (2006), and has translated the works of Yugoslavian poets such as Ivan Lalic, Vasko Popa, Tomasz Salamun and Aleksandar Ristic. He is a frequent contributor to *The New York Review of Books* and is the poetry editor of *The Paris Review*. He is Professor Emeritus at the University of New Hampshire.

#### **About the Boston Athenæum**

The Boston Athenæum, founded in 1807, is one of the oldest and most distinguished independent libraries in the United States. The building's first floor galleries are always free and open to the public. The Library's Norma Jean Calderwood Gallery features new exhibitions several times a year, and works of art from the Athenæum's permanent collection are on display on a rotating basis in the public areas. New members are always welcome. In addition to library borrowing privileges, members enjoy access to beautiful research rooms with wireless internet access, and many events, including concerts, lectures, book groups, children's story hours, and a delightful bi-weekly Athenæum afternoon tea. The Library offers fellowships and research opportunities for scholars who wish to use the Athenæum's special collections. For information about membership, including discounted membership for young people, visit [www.bostonathenaeum.org](http://www.bostonathenaeum.org).