



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** March 3, 2010

**CONTACT:** Joyce Linehan (617) 282-2510 X 1, [joyce@ashmontmedia.com](mailto:joyce@ashmontmedia.com)

### **THE BOSTON ATHENÆUM PRESENTS FREE LUNCHTIME POETRY READINGS**

(BOSTON) The Boston Athenæum presents **Poetry at Noon**, a series of readings on the first Wednesday of each month. Readings take place at the Boston Athenæum, 10 ½ Beacon Street on Beacon Hill near the State House. The 30 minute events begin at noon, and are free and open to the public. No reservations are required. For more information, visit [www.bostonathenaeum.org](http://www.bostonathenaeum.org) or call (617) 227-0270.

#### **April 7 - Jenny Desai**

Jenny Desai studied Classics and Medieval Latin at Harvard College before earning a Master in Fine Arts at the University of Michigan, where she was the recipient of the Hopwood Award in Poetry. After completing a Stegner Fellowship at Stanford, she worked in publishing, including a brief tenure as a literary agent and translation-rights broker, and a stint as the managing editor of the now-defunct *San Jose Magazine*. She has published articles on a variety of topics, including the impact of cochlear implants on deaf culture, and the intersection of biology and violence. Her most recent work includes a contribution to the textbook *The Active Reader: Strategies for Academic Reading and Writing* (Oxford University Press, 2008), and editorship of *Landscape of Industry: An Industrial History of the Blackstone River Valley* (University Press of New England, 2009). Her poetry has been published in numerous journals, including *The Birmingham Review*, *The Beloit Poetry Journal*, *The MacGuffin*, *The Harvard Quarterly*, *Ascent*, and *Plainsongs*. She is currently—and perennially—at work on a collection of poems.

#### **May 5 - Sue Standing**

Sue Standing is the author of four collections of poems: *False Horizon* (Four Way Books, 2003), *Gravida* (Four Way Books, 1995), *Deception Pass* (Alice James Books, 1984), and *Amphibious Weather* (Zephyr Press, 1981). *The Cape Split Cycle*, her collaboration with visual artist Katherine Kadish, was curated by the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, and exhibited widely. She also collaborated with the Printmakers Network of Southern New England, on a limited-edition artists' book, *TRAVEL*, which was published in 2009. Standing has also collaborated with several composers, most recently, David Froom. Their song cycle was performed by the 21st Century Consort at the Smithsonian in April, 2009. Standing has been nominated for the Pushcart Prize several times, and she received a 2005 Pushcart Prize for her short story, "Fast Sunday," which originally appeared in *Ploughshares*. The recipient of fellowships from the Fulbright Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Bunting Institute, she teaches creative writing and African literature at Wheaton College.

#### **June 2 – Gerrit Lansing**

**Gerrit Lansing** was born in Albany, New York, and grew up in Northern Ohio. Educated at Harvard and Columbia Universities, he has taught at Bard College. In the early 1960s, Lansing edited and published two issues of *SET*, a literary journal that fused Modernist poetic experiment with occult and spiritual themes and served as a precursor of and influence upon the subsequent counterculture. In 2003, Pressed Wafer published *A February Sheaf*, collecting his essays and criticism. Lansing's most recent book is *Heavenly Tree, Northern Earth*.

### **In the Boston Athenæum's Gallery**

PAINTER + POET: George Nama and Charles Simic  
Through April 10, 2010

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.

### **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).

-30-

Joyce Linehan

Ashmont Media

10A Burt St., Dorchester, Mass. 02124

(617) 282-2510 x 1

Current press releases and high res images: [http://www.ashmontmedia.com/media\\_releases.html](http://www.ashmontmedia.com/media_releases.html)