
POETRY CONTEST, FALL 2011

How does a poet describing a work of art reconcile the poem's word-by-word, line-by-line progression with the simultaneity of the visual experience? In *Museum of Words: the Poetics of Ekphrasis from Homer to Ashbery*, James Heffernan characterizes the productive tension involved in this form of inspiration: "Profoundly ambivalent, ekphrastic poetry celebrates the power of the silent image even as it tries to circumscribe that power with the authority of the word." For this year's Poetry in the Museum contest, we invite poets to explore this challenge (known as ekphrasis—the verbal representation of a visual object) by choosing any work

Guidelines:

The contest is open to poets of high school age and above; high-school applicants are judged in their own category. Only poems that have not been published previously may be submitted. Each poet may submit up to three ekphrastic poems in response to any work(s) of art at CMA; the entire entry should not exceed 10 pages.

Each author must submit their poems with a cover sheet including name, address, phone(s), and email address. The author's name should appear only on the cover letter and not on the poems themselves. Each entry will be assigned a number for blind judging.

The poems and cover sheet should be submitted electronically to bakernord@case.edu. A confirmation email will be sent when submission is received.

Submission deadline is October 12, 2011 by 5:00 p.m. (no exceptions)

Judging:

Jorie Graham will serve as judge for the contest. Graham is the Boylston Professor of Rhetoric and Oratory at Harvard University and former Chancellor of the American Academy of Poets.

Winners:

Winners will be notified by October 21, 2011 and are expected to participate in "Poetry in the Museum" on Sunday, October 30th. Hosted by the Cleveland Museum of Art, and co-sponsored by the Baker-Nord Center for the Humanities, "Poetry in the Museum" will feature a reading by visiting poet Jorie Graham in the Cleveland Museum of Art's Reid Gallery.

The contest's four winners will be announced at the event and asked to share their poems with the audience. Winning poems will be published on the Baker-Nord Center for the Humanities website and in the CMA newsletter. Winners will also receive special prize packages assembled by the Cleveland Museum of Art and the Baker-Nord Center for the Humanities.