ST. MARK’S TALKS

Thursday, February 28, at 8pm
GEORGE-THERESE DICKENSON and PETER SEATON -- The Anxiety of Literacy
"It's only poetry that successfully transcends the technological imperatives of reading and writing. In the ubiquitous press of conventions for the use of a literacy designed to deal with primeval scarcity and thereby destined desperately to promote it the hallmarks of the contradiction are obsession, anxiety, manipulation, alienation and mannerism. Demanding unmediated, non-hierarchical, non-colonial contexts of 'appréciation', poetry is hardly a vehicle and scarcely a product. For it is precisely at those points that poetry is popularly thought to be inaccessible that its immediacy is most apprehendable and keeps us sane."

George-Therese Dickenson is author of Striactions (Good Gay Poets, 1976) and the forthcoming Transducing (Segue). She is cofounder of Incisions Arts, which conducts workshops and readings for inmates of New York area hospital prison wards. Peter Seaton is author of Agreement (Asylum's), The Son Master (Roof), Orbits Intervention (Tuumba).

Sunday, March 31, at 8pm
LYN HEJINIAN -- Language and 'Paradise'
Perception, the consciousness of perception, and consciousness of consciousness of perception (an approaching psychology of language). The place of poetic language in mediated and unmediated experiences of the world. With reference to some of Gertrude Stein's work and to Hejinian's The Guard.

Lyn Hejinian's most recent book is Redo (Salt-Works). She is publisher of Tuumba Press and coeditor of Poet's Journal. Other books include My Life, Oyvind, A Thought Is the Bride of What Thinking, A Mask of Motion, and Writing Is an Aid to Memory. She lives in Berkeley.

Friday, April 26, at 8:30 pm. Note Later starting time.
NATHANIEL MACKEY -- Sound and Sentiment, Sound and Symbol
Exploring senses of music in Mackey's own work and that of others. "I was...struck by the point the book makes...that polyrhythmic drumming implies an absent, additional rhythm, a furtive beat one's listening supplies or one's dancing echoes.... It's as though the beat that goes without sounding made the heart pound harder, as though each gap were only a endlessly altered fit."

Nathaniel Mackey edits Hambone from Santa Cruz. Books of poetry include Four for Trane (Golemics), and Septet for the End of Time; Eroding Witness is forthcoming from University of Illinois Press. Recent work has appeared in Conjunctions, Code of Signals, Alcatraz, and Callaloo.

Thursday, May 2, at 8pm
ANNE WALDMAN -- What Takes
"A discussion of 'including everything' in my own writing and some of that of those in the same-more or less time. 'Include break orderly converse to address divine disorders abruptly' is an apt line from Robert Duncan which suggests the romantic approach of embracing all the possibilities. Politics, dailyness, high talk, song, dharna, dream, 'form' and other are all featured."

Anne Waldman is author of Makeup on Empty Space, Fast Speaking Woman, Journals and Dreamscapes, Cabin, and many other books of poems. She is a past director of The Poetry Project and currently heads the poetics program at Naropa Institute in Boulder.

Thursday, June 6, at 8pm
RACHEL BLAU DUPLISSIS and KATHLEEN FRASER -- The Tradition of Marginality
How the modernist project has bonded with feminist perception and discovered its own ground in the practice of two women poets and editors. Rachel Blau DuPlessis is a poet and critic. Recent books are Writing Beyond/Endings: Naming Strategies of Twentieth Century Woman Writers (new from Indiana University Press), Wells (Montemora), and Gypsy Moth (Coincidence). She teaches at Temple University. Kathleen Fraser is editor of Hose(ever) and author of nine books of poems including What I Want and New Shoes (both from Harper & Row), Magritte Series (Tuumba), Each Next (The Figures), and most recently Something (even human voices) in the foreground, a lake (Kelsey Street). She teaches at San Francisco State.

ADMISSION IS $3. Coordinated by Charles Bernstein. Funded, in part, by grants from the New York State Council on the Humanities and from Mobil Corporation. All events in THE PARISH HALL.

THE POETRY PROJECT
AT ST. MARK'S CHURCH, 2ND AVE. & 10TH ST., NYC 10003 (212/674-0910)