

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 9, 2010

WHAT: Going Public Lit Series: Reading by Stanley Crawford & Valerie Martin
WHEN: Tuesday, March 23 at 8 PM
WHERE: Amherst Books
8 Main Street, Amherst

**(Acclaimed Authors Stanley Crawford and Valerie Martin
To Read from Recent Works)**

As part of the Going Public Contemporary Lit Series presented by the Juniper Initiative for Literary Arts and Action, the Amherst Cinema Arts Center, and the UMass Fine Arts Center, noted authors Stanley Crawford and Valerie Martin will read from recent works at 8:00 PM, Tuesday, March 23, at Amherst Books, 8 Main Street in downtown Amherst.

Stanley Crawford is the author five novels, including *Petroleum Man*, *Log of the S.S.*, and *The Mrs. Unguentine*, as well as three books of nonfiction, including *Garlic Testament: Seasons on a Small New Mexico Farm* and *A River in Winter: New and Selected Essays*. His essays and reviews have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *Smithsonian Magazine*, and *High Country News*. Crawford has been the recipient of numerous honors, including the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Foundation Writing Award and fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Lannan Foundation of Marfa, Texas.

Valerie Martin was born in Sedalia, Missouri, and grew up in New Orleans, Louisiana, her mother's family home, where her father was a sea-captain. She is the author of nine novels, including *Trespass*, *Mary Reilly*, *Italian Fever*, and *Property*, three collections of short fiction, and a biography of St. Francis of Assisi, titled *Salvation*. She has been awarded a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, as well as the Kafka Prize (for *Mary Reilly*) and Britain's Orange Prize (for *Property*). A new novel, *The Confessions of Edward Day*, will be published by Nan A. Talese in August 2009. Valerie Martin has taught in writing programs at Mount Holyoke College, the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and Sarah Lawrence College, among others. She resides in Dutchess County, New York.

The reading is free and open to the public.

Portraits of Crawford and Martin are available for download at <http://www.fineartscenter.com/centerwide/pressRoom/>.

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