

March 7, 2011: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Announcing the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Juniper Literary Festival New Writers/New Writing**

**Amherst, MA:** The University of Massachusetts MFA Program, one of the nation's oldest and finest creative writing programs, announces the **11<sup>th</sup> annual Juniper Literary Festival: New Writers/New Writing**, to be held April 15-16, 2011.

The Juniper Literary Festival: New Writers/New Writing will introduce audiences to vital contemporary writing and explore issues essential to the future of American literature. A unique national event, the festival will celebrate and contribute to the literary richness of the Pioneer Valley. The festival will offer readings by a dozen acclaimed authors who have recently published their first or second books, with roundtable discussions, a press fair featuring dozens of the nation's most exciting literary magazines and presses, and a keynote panel with the Poetry Society of America's Alice Quinn and the National Book Foundation's Harold Augenbraum. All events will take place at the UMass Fine Arts Center and be free and open to the public.

"The Juniper Festival continues its mission of introducing poets and writers and presses to new audiences and inspiring rip-roaring conversations about what's happening in poetry and prose and publishing today. It's a weekend designed so that significant crosspaths and currents fuel new ideas, new publishing ventures, new collaborations and new friendships," said poet and University of Massachusetts Amherst professor Dara Wier.

"Each year, the Juniper Literary Festival showcases groundbreaking, original writing, along with engaging critical discussions. This year's focus will offer Festival audiences the opportunity to connect with our country's future masters of letters, and showcase the vibrancy and dynamism of contemporary American literature," said Robert N. Casper, publisher of *jubilat* and Programs Director for the Poetry Society of America.

The festival starts Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup> with an opening reception for the press fair, where editors and publishers of a diverse range of contemporary magazines and books will show their work. Following the reception, award-winning poets and writers Sommer Browning, Timothy Donnelly, Michelle Hoover, and Roy Kesey will read from their recent books, including Donnelly's *The Cloud Corporation*, which was named the best second book of 2010 by *Coldfront Magazine*, and Hoover's *The Quickening*, which received featured reviews in *The Boston Globe* and *Publishers Weekly*.

Saturday's events include readings by celebrated emerging poets and writers including Gina Apostol, Cynthia Arriue-King, Joseph Cardinale, Margaret Luongo, Travis Nichols, Kiki Petrosino, Abraham Smith, and Michelle Taransky as well as by editors of celebrated literary magazines, including Rebecca Wolff from *Fence*. Robert N. Casper, publisher of *jubilat*, and Brigid Hughes, editor of *A Public Space*, will moderate a keynote panel featuring the Poetry Society of America's Alice Quinn and the National

Book Foundation's Harold Augenbraum, Jensen Beach, Monica Fambrough, Noah Eli Gordon, and Betsy Wheeler will lead roundtable discussions and demonstrations on publishing a first book, the changing conditions of editing and reading, what's new about new writing, and craft and design in book arts. The book and journal fair will continue throughout the festival, featuring representatives from over fifty new and established journals and presses from around the region and across the country, including FC2, Slope Editions, Ugly Duckling Presse, and Wave Books.

Complete details and schedule available at [http://umass.edu/english/MFA\\_JuniperFestival.htm](http://umass.edu/english/MFA_JuniperFestival.htm)

Inaugurated in 2001 as the BigSmallPressFest, each year the Juniper Literary Festival showcases exciting new writing and explores issues vital to the literary arts, helping to ensure their vitality, plurality, and accessibility. Recently, the Festival has explored the work of pre-eminent poet John Ashbery, influential literary magazines, and the intersection of writing and the environment. In 2011 and beyond, the Festival will focus on new American poetry and fiction by showcasing first- and second book poets and writers alongside dozens of independent journals and presses.

The Juniper Initiative reaches more than 10,000 participants each year. The 2011 Festival is co-sponsored by the UMass Fine Arts Center, Amherst Books, and *The Valley Advocate*; partner presses Action Book, Birds, LLC, Letter Machine Editions, Sarabande Books, and Wave Books; and sponsoring presses and organizations Coffee House Press, LSU Press, National Book Foundation, Octopus Books, Omnidawn Publishing, Poetry Society of America, Poets' House, and Harvard University's Woodberry Poetry Room. It is made possible through the support of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, UMass Arts Council, College of Humanities and Fine Arts, and Vice Provost for Research and Engagement.