

TITLE: A Tribute to Monica A. Hand: Poet, Playwright, Translator, Mentor, Activist

NUMBER: T224

DATE/TIME: 3:20pm - 4:35pm on Thursday March 24, 2022

LOCATION: 115C, Pennsylvania Convention Center, 100 Level

CATEGORY: Tribute

DESCRIPTION:

Monica A. Hand (1953-2016) was a brilliant poet, playwright, book artist, translator, Cave Canem Fellow, mentor, and activist. Her poetry books, *me and Nina* (2012), winner of the 2010 Kinereth Gensler Award, and *The DiVida Poems* (A2018) reveal a profound, major voice for the experiences of African Americans, women, artists, peace, and social justice. Panelists will talk about her, read her poems, and show images of one of our most beloved poets whose loss is felt all over the world.

EVENT MODERATOR:

Aliki Barnstone is a poet, translator, critic, editor, and artist. Some of her recent books of poems are *Dwelling* (Sheep Meadow 2016) and her translations of Liana Sakelliou's *Portrait Before Dark* (St. Julian 2022). Among her awards is a Fulbright Fellowship in Greece. She was poet laureate of Missouri from 2016-2019.

EVENT PARTICIPANT:

Lauren K. Alleyne is author of *Difficult Fruit* (2014) and *Honeyfish* (2019), and co-editor of *Furious Flower: Seeding the Future of African American Poetry* (2020). She is Director of the Furious Flower Poetry Center and Professor of English at James Madison University.

EVENT PARTICIPANT:

Rebecca Pelky is an Assistant Professor of Film Studies at Clarkson University. She has two collections of poetry, *Horizon of the Dog Woman* and *Through A Red Place*. She is a member of the Brothertown Indian Nation of Wisconsin and writes in Mohegan and English.

EVENT PARTICIPANT:

Evangelia "Liana" Sakelliou is a poet, translator, critic, editor. She Professor of English at The University of Athens, Greece. She is author of 18 books, including monographs on/translations of Emerson, Dickinson, H.D., Levertov, Snyder and

Aliki Barnstone's translation of her Portrait Before Dark (St. Julian 2022). Her poems are widely anthologized and translated into several languages.

OPENING:

A screening (6.5 minutes) of the Academy of American Poets' P.O.P (Poets on Poetry) video by Rachel Eliza Griffiths, "Monica A. Hand: 'From the Language of Ash.'" <https://poets.org/text/pop-video-featuring-monica-hand>

We want to leave plenty of time for people who come to this tribute to participate in memorializing and celebrating Monica's life.

- 1) ALIKI BARNSTONE AND LIANA SAKELLIYOU will follow with a bilingual reading beginning with "From the Language of Ash." Aliki and Liana will talk a little about meeting Monica in Greece, the process of translating her poems, and the fact that she was a translator and an international person.
- 2) REBECCA PELKY will talk about their friendship when they were both pursuing their Ph.D.s at the University of Missouri and how Monica was a mentor to her. She will do a bilingual reading of a poem of Monica's translated into Mohegan.
- 3) LAUREN ALLYNE will talk about Monica as a book artist and friend.
- 4) Audience shares stories memories of Monica and her work. (15-25 minutes).