

Bury It Wesleyan Poetry Series: An Exploration of Poetic Innovation and Literary Legacy

The Bury It Wesleyan Poetry Series, established in 1971 at Wesleyan University, is a renowned literary event that showcases the works of emerging and established poets, fostering a vibrant and thought-provoking literary dialogue. This article aims to delve into the history, mission, and significance of the Bury It Wesleyan Poetry Series, highlighting its contributions to the literary landscape and its lasting impact on contemporary poetry.



bury it (Wesleyan Poetry Series) by sam sax

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

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Historical Roots and Founding Principles

The Bury It Wesleyan Poetry Series was founded by Wesleyan University English professor Jonathan Holden and poet Robert Creeley. Inspired by the spirit of the Beat poets and the experimental literary movements of the mid-20th century, Holden and Creeley sought to create a forum where innovative and challenging poetry could flourish. The series takes its name

from the poem "For Melville" by Robert Duncan, which includes the lines, "Bury it/as deep as you can." These lines embody the series' commitment to unearthing and elevating unconventional and groundbreaking poetic voices.

Evolving Mission and Significance

Over the decades, the Bury It Wesleyan Poetry Series has evolved while maintaining its core mission of presenting boundary-pushing and thought-provoking poetry. The series has consistently provided a platform for poets to explore diverse perspectives, experiment with poetic form and language, and engage with pressing social and cultural issues. By showcasing innovative and often challenging works, Bury It has played a pivotal role in shaping the trajectory of contemporary American poetry.

Renowned Participants and Notable Readings

The Bury It Wesleyan Poetry Series has hosted an impressive array of renowned poets, including Pulitzer Prize winners, National Book Award recipients, and MacArthur Fellows. Some of the notable poets who have graced the series' stage include:

1. Adrienne Rich
2. Robert Creeley
3. Jorie Graham
4. Mark Strand
5. Louise Glück

6. Billy Collins
7. Ocean Vuong
8. Tracy K. Smith

These renowned writers have shared their works, engaged in critical discussions, and inspired countless attendees. The series' readings are known for their intimate and thought-provoking atmosphere, fostering a deep connection between poets and listeners.

Publications and Special Projects

In addition to hosting poetry readings, the Bury It Wesleyan Poetry Series also publishes a literary journal called *CrossCurrents*. This biannual publication features selected readings from the series, essays, interviews, and reviews of contemporary poetry. *CrossCurrents* provides a valuable platform for disseminating new poetic voices and engaging in critical dialogue about the art form.

Other notable projects associated with the series include the Wesleyan Translation Prize, which recognizes outstanding translations of poetry, and the Wesleyan Writers Conference, which brings together established and emerging writers for workshops and readings.

Lasting Impact and Legacy

The Bury It Wesleyan Poetry Series has made significant contributions to the literary landscape, fostering the development and appreciation of contemporary poetry. Through its commitment to innovation and diversity,

the series has helped shape the way we think about and engage with poetry.

By providing a platform for emerging poets, Bury It has played a crucial role in the development of new poetic voices. The series has also contributed to the critical understanding of poetry, offering a space for literary analysis and scholarly discourse.

The Bury It Wesleyan Poetry Series is a thriving literary institution that has consistently showcased innovative and thought-provoking poetry for over half a century. Through its renowned readings, publications, and special projects, the series continues to shape the landscape of contemporary poetry. As a testament to its lasting legacy, Bury It has inspired countless poets, writers, and readers alike, fostering a vibrant and enduring literary community.

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A group of poets gathered at the Bury It Wesleyan Poetry Series reading, engaging in a lively discussion about poetry and its impact on society.

SEO Title

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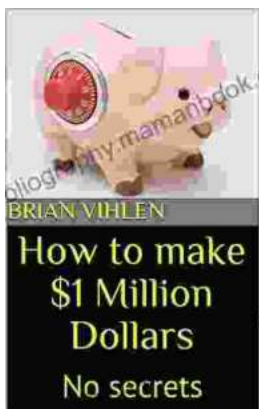
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