



Media Announcement

Poetry in Motion Unveils Two New Poems Offering Warmth This Season



Left: “Lullaby” from *Deaf Republic* © 2019 by Ilya Kaminsky. Used by permission of The Permission Company LLC, on behalf of Graywolf Press. *Urban Idyll* (2018) © Elisabeth Condon, NYCT Astoria-Ditmars Blvd station. Commissioned by MTA Arts & Design.

Right: “Sunday’s Empire” from *Now It’s Dark* © 2020 by Peter Gizzi. Published by Wesleyan University Press. Used by permission. *Uptown New York* (2000) © Frank Leslie Hampton, NYCT Tremont Av station. Commissioned by MTA Arts & Design. Photo: Rob Wilson.

(NEW YORK, NY — January 25, 2024) MTA Arts & Design announces the release of two new Poetry in Motion pieces that embrace the coziness of winter. Projecting warmth and the serenity of feeling at home, the new poems were chosen in collaboration with the Poetry Society of America and paired with selections from MTA Arts & Design’s permanent artwork collection. Together, the two poems lend a sense of comfort and calm to the daily commute this cold season.

“We begin a new year with new poems that elevate the journey,” said **Sandra Bloodworth, Director MTA Arts & Design**. “Poetry is the perfect complement to a season where time slows down. In the artwork pairings, riders may find a soft breeze or a quiet moment of escape.”

“The poems of Ilya Kaminsky and Peter Gizzi,” said **Matt Brogan, Executive Director Poetry Society of America**, “remind us that our lives are lit, not only by the sun rising over the horizon or reflecting off the fallen snow, but by family, neighbors, and community. ‘People live here,’ Gizzi writes, and Kaminsky responds, ‘all neighbors’ hands.’”

The new additions: “Lullaby” by Ilya Kaminsky and “Sunday’s Empire” by Peter Gizzi, are presented in print and on digital screens throughout the subway, as well as commuter rail cars and Metro-North and Long Island Railroad stations including the main hall of Grand Central Terminal and Grand Central Madison. “Lullaby” is paired with a detail from Elisabeth Condon’s original artwork for her painted glass project *Urban Idyll* (2018) at Astoria-Ditmars Blvd station. The flowing composition features colorful flowers and birds in flight. “Sunday’s Empire” is set with a detail from Frank Leslie Hampton’s mosaic *Uptown New York* (2000) at Tremont Av station, which depicts a classic New York scene, an apartment building with laundry hanging on clotheslines, and views of the city skyline.

The following is text of “Lullaby”:

Little daughter
rainwater

snow and branches protect you
whitewashed walls

and neighbors’ hands all
Child of my Aprils

little earth of
six pounds

my white hair
keeps your sleep lit

The following is text of “Sunday’s Empire”:

The roofs speak
as light over
the scaped silence.

A cacophony
of shapes
kicks off into sky.

People live here
in the quiet
a day undresses.

Tones shaking out.

About the Poets

Ilya Kaminsky was born in Odesa, Ukraine in 1977. He is the author of *Deaf Republic* and *Dancing in Odessa* and co-editor and co-translator of many other books, including *The Ecco Anthology of International Poetry*, *In the Hour of War: Poems from Ukraine*, and *Dark Elderberry Branch: Poems of Marina Tsvetaeva*. His work was the finalist for the National Book Award and won the Los Angeles Times Book Award, the Anisfield-Wolf Book Award, the National Jewish Book Award, the Whiting Award, and the American Academy of Arts and Letters' Metcalf Award.

Peter Gizzi is the author of *Fierce Elegy*; *Now It's Dark*; *Archeophonics* (finalist for the National Book Award); and *In Defense of Nothing: Selected Poems 1987–2011*, among other collections of poetry. His honors include the Lavan Younger Poet Award from the Academy of American Poets and fellowships in poetry from the Fund for Poetry, the Foundation for Contemporary Arts, and the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. His editing projects include *The House That Jack Built: The Collected Lectures of Jack Spicer* and *My Vocabulary Did This to Me: The Collected Poetry of Jack Spicer*. He is a professor at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

About the Artists

Elisabeth Condon creates paintings and works on paper that overlap natural and built environments by referencing décor, abstraction, and scrolls. Linking Asian ink-and-brush painting to the wallpapers of her childhood home, Condon incorporates bird and flower patterns in paintings and public art. Condon's paintings are held in the collections of Hudson River Museum, Tampa Museum of Art, Perez Art Museum Miami, United States Embassy Beijing, and numerous private collections throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia. She is recipient of the Joan Mitchell Foundation Painters and Sculptors Grant, Pollock Krasner Foundation Grant, and Florida Individual Artist Fellowship.

Frank Leslie Hampton is a graduate of Herbert H. Lehman College, City University of New York. He won the Puffin Foundation individual artist award for his solo exhibition *Black History Art Show* in Binghamton, New York, in 1998. In addition to his permanent commission, Hampton also designed a poster for Arts & Design in 2002.

About Poetry in Motion

MTA's Poetry in Motion program has produced more than 200 poems or excerpts since its inception in 1992. After a hiatus of four years, from 2008 through 2011, the popular program returned in March 2012 under the aegis of Arts & Design.

To learn more about this MTA Arts & Design program, visit <https://new.mta.info/agency/arts-design/poetry-in-motion>

To learn more about the Poetry Society of America, visit <https://poetrysociety.org/>

###

PRESS CONTACT

MTA Press Office
(212) 878-7440

For email inquiries:
arts@mtahq.org

CONNECT

Instagram: @mtaartsdesign
Twitter: @MTAArtsDesign
Facebook: @MTAArtsDesign

Instagram: @poetry_society
Twitter: @Poetry_Society
Facebook: @poetrysociety