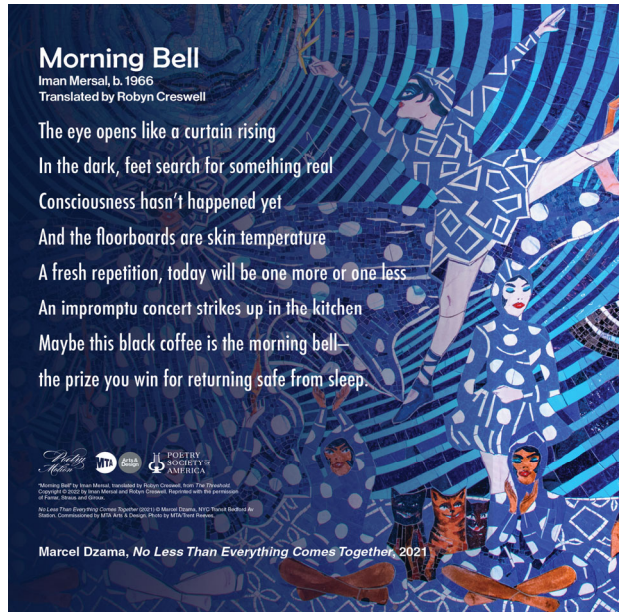
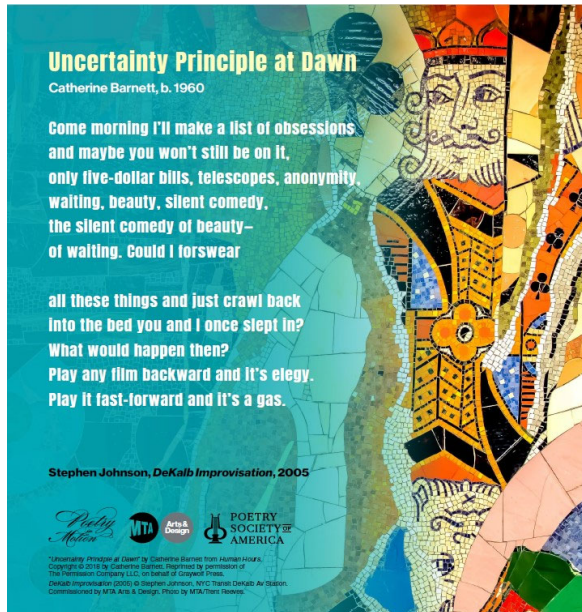




Media Announcement

Poetry in Motion Unveils Two New Poems Coinciding with National Poetry Month



Left: "Uncertainty Principle at Dawn" by Catherine Barnett from *Human Hours*. Copyright © 2018 by Catherine Barnett. Reprinted by permission of The Permission Company LLC, on behalf of Graywolf Press. *DeKalb Improvisation* (2005) © Stephen Johnson, NYC Transit DeKalb Av Station. Commissioned by MTA Arts & Design. Photo by MTA/Trent Reeves.

Right: "Morning Bell" by Iman Mersal, translated by Robyn Creswell, from *The Threshold*. Copyright © 2022 by Iman Mersal and Robyn Creswell. Reprinted with the permission of Farrar, Straus and Giroux. *No Less Than Everything Comes Together* (2021) © Marcel Dzama, NYC Transit Bedford Av Station. Commissioned by MTA Arts & Design. Photo by MTA/Trent Reeves.

(NEW YORK, NY — April 28, 2023) MTA Arts & Design announces the release of two new Poetry in Motion pieces, in celebration of National Poetry Month. Highlighting themes of renewal resonant with springtime, 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 offer a meditation on cycles and routines — the comfort of familiarity and the thrill of starting something new.

"Poetry in Motion is now presented across the MTA network of trains. The poems will be posted during National Poetry Month but remain on view for subway, MNR and LIRR riders through the summer. We are excited to see how these striking new combinations of art and poetry will resonate with riders, as Poetry in Motion has for so many years," said **Sandra Bloodworth, Director MTA Arts & Design**.

"We are delighted to share these poems by Catherine Barnett and Iman Mersal with MTA riders. These are poems of awakening—into a new day, new relationships, new possibilities—a reminder that, despite our troubles, our lives are renewed each morning," said **Matt Brogan, Executive Director Poetry Society of America**.

The new additions: “Uncertainty Principle at Dawn” by Catherine Barnett and “Morning Bell” by Iman Mersal, translated from the Arabic by Robyn Creswell, are presented in print and on digital screens throughout the subway, and on digital screens in commuter rail cars and stations. “Uncertainty Principle at Dawn” is paired with a detail from Stephen Johnson’s mosaic *DeKalb Improvisation* (2005) at DeKalb Av station, featuring a collaged homage to the borough of Brooklyn. “Morning Bell” is set with imagery from Marcel Dzama’s mosaic *No Less Than Everything Comes Together* (2021) at Bedford Av station. Dzama’s scene, containing curious characters set in a palette of nighttime blues, reads like a delightful dream.

The following is text of “Uncertainty Principle at Dawn”:

Come morning I’ll make a list of obsessions
and maybe you won’t still be on it,
only five-dollar bills, telescopes, anonymity,
waiting, beauty, silent comedy,
the silent comedy of beauty—
of waiting. Could I forswear

all these things and just crawl back
into the bed you and I once slept in?
What would happen then?
Play any film backward and it’s elegy.
Play it fast-forward and it’s a gas.

The following is text of “Morning Bell”:

The eye opens like a curtain rising
In the dark, feet search for something real
Consciousness hasn’t happened yet
And the floorboards are skin temperature
A fresh repetition, today will be one more or one less
An impromptu concert strikes up in the kitchen
Maybe this black coffee is the morning bell—
the prize you win for returning safe from sleep.

About the Poets

Catherine Barnett is the author of three collections, *Human Hours*, which was the winner of the 2018 Believer Book Award in Poetry, a New York Times “Best Poetry of 2018” selection, and a finalist for the T.S. Eliot Four Quartets Prize; *The Game of Boxes*, which received the James Laughlin Award; and *Into Perfect Spheres Such Holes Are Pierced*, winner of the Beatrice Hawley Award. Her other honors include a Whiting Award, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and a 2022 Arts and Letters Award in Literature. She teaches graduate and undergraduate students in the Creative Writing Program at NYU, is a Distinguished Lecturer at Hunter College, and lives in New York City.

Iman Mersal is the author of several books of poems, including *The Threshold*, translated by Robyn Creswell, which gathers poems from her first four collections of poetry. She is also the author of the collection of essays *How to Mend: Motherhood and Its Ghosts* and the prose work *Traces of Enayat*, which received the Sheikh Zayed Book Award for Literature in 2021. Born in

Mit Adlaw, a small village in the northern Nile delta in Egypt, she is a professor of Arabic language and literature at the University of Alberta, Canada.

About the Artists

Stephen T. Johnson is a nationally decorated artist and author of many popular children's books that have been recognized with a Caldecott Honor, two New York Times Best Illustrated Books of the Year Awards, and Gold and Silver Medals from the Society of Illustrators (NYC). His original artwork has been exhibited in museum and galleries across the US and are in the collections of the National Portrait Gallery (Washington D.C.), the New Britain Museum of Art (CT), and the Spencer Museum of Art (KS). His public art can be found at the Lenexa City Center Library (KS), Love Field Airport (TX) and the LA Metro in Los Angeles (CA).

Marcel Dzama is a Brooklyn-based artist born in Winnipeg, Canada, where he received his BFA in 1997 from the University of Manitoba. Since 1998, his work has been represented by David Zwirner. Dzama has exhibited widely in solo and group presentations throughout the United States and abroad. Work by the artist is held in museum collections worldwide, including the Dallas Museum of Art; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; Whitney Museum of American Art, Museum of Modern Art, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; Tate, London; Musée d'art Contemporain de Montréal; National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa; and the Vancouver Art Gallery.

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/>

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