New Books
Fall 2010 / Winter 2011
Elegguas

KAMAU BRATHWAITE

Deeply felt requiems from an internationally celebrated poet

Caribbean poet Kamau Brathwaite is one of the major world poets of the second half of the twentieth century. *Elegguas*—a play on “elegy” and “Eleggua,” the Yoruba deity of the threshold—is a collection of poems for the departed. Modernist and postmodernist in inspiration, *Elegguas* draws together traditions of speaking with the dead, from Rilke's *Duino Elegies* to Jamaican *kumina*. This collection is a stunning follow-up to Brathwaite’s *Born to Slow Horses*, winner of the Griffin International Poetry Prize.

“*Elegguas* is a tidalectic wave of remembrance and remonstrance. It is, as well, one of Brathwaite’s most compassionate songs.”

MARK NOWAK, author of *Coal Mountain Elementary*

KAMAU BRATHWAITE, cofounder of the Caribbean Artists Movement, is a professor of comparative literature at New York University, and shares his time between his home in CowPastor, Barbados, and New York City.

The Driftless Series is funded by the Beatrice Fox Auerbach Foundation Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. For more information about The Driftless Series, visit: www.wesleyan.edu/wespress/driftless

This project is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts.

To See the Earth Before the End of the World

ED ROBERSON

Generous, visionary new work by this major American poet

In *To See the Earth Before the End of the World*, Ed Roberson presents us with earth and sky, neighborhood life and ancient myths, the art of seeing and the architecture of the imagination. These poems range widely, invoking galaxies and garbage trucks, teapots and the history of photography. There are songs of creation, songs of war, and celebrations of human labor. Most of all, there is the exhilaration of a sweeping vision that enlarges our world.

“In this dreamy collection, human features stand out as distinct then blend into the nature of the world surrounding them. We can’t always tell plant from animal from mineral, and Roberson reminds us that in the end, as in poetry, such distinctions are moot.”

CAMILLE T. DUNGY, editor of *Black Nature: Four Centuries of African American Nature Poetry*

ED ROBERSON is the author of eight books of poetry. He is the recipient of the Poetry Society of America’s Shelley Memorial Award and his books have won the Iowa Poetry Prize and the National Poetry Series.

This project is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts.
A Spicing of Birds
Poems by Emily Dickinson
SELECTED AND INTRODUCED BY JO MILES SCHUMAN
AND JOANNA BAILEY HODGMAN

The bird poems of a revered American poet paired with classic illustrations

A Spicing of Birds is a unique and beautifully illustrated anthology. Emily Dickinson (1830–1886) had a great love of birds—in her collected poems, birds are mentioned 222 times, sometimes as the core inspiration of the poem. This book contains thirty-seven of Dickinson’s poems featuring birds common to New England. The introduction draws extensively from Dickinson’s letters and provides fascinating insights into her relationship with birds. With illustrations by Mark Catesby, John James Audubon, Alexander Wilson, Louis Agassiz Fuertes, and Cordelia Stanwood, this book is an eloquent celebration of birds and will make an ideal gift for both birders and poetry readers.

JO MILES SCHUMAN, an avid birder, is the author of Art from Many Hands: Multicultural Art Projects and lives in Phippsburg, Maine. JOANNA BAILEY HODGMAN is a retired English teacher who lives in Rochester, New York.

The Driftless Series is funded by the Beatrice Fox Auerbach Foundation Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. For more information about The Driftless Series, visit: www.wesleyan.edu/wespress/driftless

Modern Gestures
Abraham Walkowitz Draws Isadora Duncan Dancing
ANN COOPER ALBRIGHT

Watercolors by a modernist master capture the beginnings of modern dance

This small and lavishly illustrated book showcases the work of two great American modernists, painter Abraham Walkowitz and dancer Isadora Duncan. Born in the same year (1878), both artists influenced the development of modern art in the early twentieth century by blending figurative gesture with abstraction. Walkowitz and Duncan met in 1906 in Paris at the studio of the sculptor Auguste Rodin. Deeply impressed by Duncan’s musicality and expressivity, Walkowitz drew thousands of images of Duncan dancing throughout his life. In her introductory essay, author Ann Cooper Albright weaves literary theory, art criticism, and dance history into a fluid narrative to explore how Walkowitz’s drawings realize Duncan’s dancing on paper. Modern Gestures reproduces over fifty watercolors of this unique oeuvre, many of which have never before been published. A perfect gift, this sumptuous little volume will provide hours of enjoyment to anyone interested in dance or modern art.

ANN COOPER ALBRIGHT is the author of Traces of Light and Choreographing Difference, and teaches at Oberlin College.

This book is supported in part by a grant from Furthermore: a program of the J.M. Kaplan Fund.
The New Entrepreneurs

An Institutional History of Television Anthology Writers

JON KRASZEWSKI

How television writers thwarted the constraints of corporate culture in the 1950s and flourished

According to the sociologist C. Wright Mills in his 1951 book, *White Collar: The American Middle Classes*, the “new entrepreneur” was a lone wolf able to succeed in post–World War II corporate America by elusively meandering through various institutions. During this time, anthology writers such as Rod Serling, Reginald Rose, and Paddy Chayefsky achieved a level of creativity that has rarely been equaled on television since. In order to stay true to their creative powers and political visions, they worked as new entrepreneurs, adapting their more controversial scripts for the Hollywood, Broadway, and book publishing industries.

“This impressive work of popular historiography employs trenchant empirical research to undergird the power and reach of its important argument about struggles for cultural control in ’50s television. *The New Entrepreneurs* is authoritative in its capturing, in very concrete terms, what the writers actually did in fighting for their creative rights.”

DANA POLAN, professor of cinema studies, New York University

JON KRASZEWSKI is an assistant professor in the Department of Communication at Seton Hall University.

Kazan Revisited

EDITED BY LISA DOMBROWSKI

Top critics and scholars reconsider the cinematic legacy of Elia Kazan

A groundbreaking filmmaker dogged by controversy in both his personal life and career, Elia Kazan was one of the most important directors of postwar American cinema. In landmark motion pictures such as *A Streetcar Named Desire, On the Waterfront, East of Eden, and Splendor in the Grass*, Kazan crafted an emotionally raw form of realism. His reputation has rested on his Academy Award–winning work with actors, his provocative portrayal of sexual, moral, and generational conflict, and his unpopular decision to name former colleagues as Communists before the House Un-American Activities Committee in 1952. Arriving in the wake of his centenary and featuring essays by established film critics and scholars such as Richard Schickel (*Time*), Victor Navasky (*The Nation*), Mark Harris (*Entertainment Weekly*), Kent Jones (*Film Comment*), Jonathan Rosenbaum (*Essential Cinema*), Jeanine Basinger (*The Star Machine*), and Leo Braudy (*On the Waterfront*), this book is a must for diehard cinephiles and those new to Kazan alike.

LISA DOMBROWSKI is an associate professor of film studies at Wesleyan University and the author of *The Films of Samuel Fuller: If You Die, I’ll Kill You!*

Wesleyan Film

January

240 pp., 50 illus., 6 x 9”
Cloth, $35.00
978-0-8195-7084-0
FILM / BIOGRAPHY

Wesleyan Film

December

224 pp., 22 illus., 6 x 9”
Cloth, $40.00
978-0-8195-6946-2
TELEVISION / MEDIA STUDIES

Wesleyan Film
Water for Hartford
The Story of the Hartford Water Works and the Metropolitan District Commission

KEVIN MURPHY

How three men brought clean water to Hartford, on a massive scale

Good health is inextricably wedded to pure drinking water, and an effective water delivery system is almost as important as the water itself. Water for Hartford chronicles the century-long effort, beginning in the 1850s, to construct a waterworks system for Hartford, Connecticut. The story of Hartford’s waterworks is a fascinating one, for it recalls the hard work and extraordinary engineering feats necessary to deliver wholesome drinking water to a growing urban center. It also illuminates the ever-changing social, political, and economic milieu in which a modern waterworks was built.

The story of the waterworks’ construction is also the story of three men—Hiram Bissell, Ezra Clark, and Caleb Saville. Readers are given a firsthand glimpse of what these champions of a water system faced on a daily basis: unforgiving geography, venal politicians, and an often-indifferent public. Water for Hartford is a human story, chronicling the decisions and actions of individuals that would affect millions of people for decades to come.

KEVIN MURPHY is an independent historian and writer who lives in Rocky Hill, Connecticut.

Connecticut Needlework
Women, Art, and Family, 1740–1840

SUSAN P. SCHOELWER

Masterworks from the extraordinary needlework collections of the Connecticut Historical Society

A landmark regional study, Connecticut Needlework explores the full range of needle arts produced before 1840: samplers and family registers, bed rugs and crewel-embroidered bed hangings, silk-embroidered scenes and memorials, quilted petticoats and whitework quilts. Extensive genealogical research provides rich new insights into women’s history, female education, and the transmission of needlework skills through family connections.

“Connecticut Needlework is Susan Schoelwer’s third remarkable book in scarcely a decade and a comprehensive catalog of inestimable value to collectors and curators. It is a seminal work of incredible depth that projects women’s domestic art into the pantheon of invaluable cultural documents.”

SUMPTER PRIDDY, author of American Fancy: Exuberance in the Arts, 1790–1840

SUSAN P. SCHOELWER is the former curator at the Connecticut Historical Society and the editor of Connecticut Valley Furniture and Lions & Eagles & Bulls.
The Wesleyan Anthology of Science Fiction
EDITED BY ARTHUR B. EVANS, ISTVAN CSICSERY-RONAY JR., JOAN GORDON, VERONICA HOLLINGER, ROB LATHAM, AND CAROL MCGUIRK

The best single-volume anthology of science fiction available

The Wesleyan Anthology of Science Fiction features over 150 years’ worth of the best science fiction ever collected in a single volume, selected and introduced by the editors of Science Fiction Studies, the world’s most respected journal for the critical study of science fiction. Designed to appeal to all readers, the fifty-two stories chart the emergence and evolution of science fiction as a modern literary genre. The chronological and thematic organization, critical introductions, and free online teacher’s guide make it ideal for classroom use.

“The Wesleyan Anthology presents the best sample from today’s sf megatext that I could imagine fitting between two covers. Every story feels necessary to the whole.”

JOHN CLUTE, editor of The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction

ARTHUR B. EVANS is a professor of French at DePauw University. He is the general editor of Wesleyan University Press’s Early Classics of Science Fiction book series. ISTVAN CSICSERY-RONAY JR., is a professor of English at DePauw University. JOAN GORDON is a professor of English at Nassau Community College. VERONICA HOLLINGER is a professor of cultural studies at Trent University in Peterborough, Ontario. ROB LATHAM is an associate professor of English at the University of California, Riverside. CAROL MCGUIRK is a professor of English at Florida Atlantic University.

Evaporating Genres
Essays on Fantastic Literature

GARY K. WOLFE

A series of lively essays on how the fantastic genres evolve and grow

In this wide-ranging series of essays, an award-winning science fiction critic explores how the related genres of science fiction, fantasy, and horror evolve, merge, and finally “evaporate” into new and more dynamic forms. Beginning with a discussion of how literary readers “unlearned” how to read the fantastic during the heyday of realistic fiction, Gary K. Wolfe goes on to show how the fantastic reasserted itself in popular genre literature, and how these genres themselves grew increasingly unstable in terms of both narrative form and the worlds they portray.

“Profoundly knowledgeable about science fiction and fantasy fiction, Gary K. Wolfe possesses both the wisdom and generosity of spirit necessary to consider these genres within the context of the wider literary culture; by doing so he miraculously illuminates them from within.”

PETER STRAUB, author of A Dark Matter

GARY K. WOLFE is a professor of humanities and English at Roosevelt University. He is the author of several books, most recently Soundings: Reviews 1992–1996, and he is contributing editor and lead reviewer for Locus magazine.
Imagining Mars
A Literary History

ROBERT CROSSLEY

Mars in the human imagination from the invention of the telescope to the present

For centuries, the planet Mars has captivated astronomers and inspired writers of all genres. From Galileo to Kim Stanley Robinson, Robert Crossley traces the history of our fascination with the red planet as it has evolved in literature both fictional and scientific. Crossley focuses specifically on the interplay between scientific discovery and literary invention, exploring how writers throughout the ages have tried to assimilate or resist new planetary knowledge. Covering texts from the 1600s to the present, this astute and elegant study is perfect for science fiction fans and readers of popular science.

“A substantial and delightful book on the literary images and narratives of Mars, eminently readable, full of imaginative insights that will in turn awaken the reader’s own imagination to the wonders of the universe.”

STEVEN J. DICK, former NASA chief historian and author of The Biological Universe

ROBERT CROSSLEY is Emeritus Professor of English at the University of Massachusetts–Boston. He is the author of Olaf Stapledon: Speaking for the Future and editor of An Olaf Stapledon Reader.

Monument Eternal
The Music of Alice Coltrane

FRANYA BERKMAN

Long-awaited biography of an African American avant-garde composer

“Alice Coltrane was much more than merely the wife of her legendary saxophonist husband with an artistic vision that spanned the most archaic spirituals to the farthest-flung reaches of the cosmos, she was one of the most brilliant improvising artists that the 1960s produced, but her eclectic creativity was frequently derided, dismissed, or misunderstood. In this fascinating book, Franya Berkman makes the persuasive case that Alice Coltrane’s music reflects a lifelong engagement with the divine element that often transcended the narrow implications of the word ‘jazz,’ and is most accurately understood in terms of her ongoing spiritual evolution. Richly contextualized, insightfully theorized, and musically rigorous, this work should contribute to a profound reappraisal of Alice Coltrane’s legacy and contribution, of the often-neglected achievements of improvised music in the 1960s and 1970s, and of potent alter-narratives of African American spirituality.”

MICHAEL VEALE, professor of ethnomusicology at Yale University

FRANYA BERKMAN is an assistant professor in the Department of Music at Lewis & Clark College.
Umm Kulthūm
Artistic Agency and the Shaping of an Arab Legend, 1967–2007
LAURA LOHMAN

How an extraordinary woman shaped her career and legacy through war

In 1967 Egypt and the Arab world suffered a devastating defeat by Israel in the Six-Day War. Though long past the age at which most singers would have retired, the sexagenarian Egyptian singer Umm Kulthūm launched a multifaceted response to the defeat that not only sustained her career, but also expanded her international fame and shaped her legacy. By examining biographies, dramas, monuments, radio programming practices, and recent recordings, Laura Lohman delves into Umm Kulthūm’s role in fashioning her image and the conflicting ways that her image and music have been interpreted since her death in 1975.

“This extraordinary work is solidly rooted in a meticulous reading and interpretation of primary Arabic sources. At all times culturally sensitive and respectful, Lohman is nevertheless unafraid to critique dominant legends and hagiographies. This groundbreaking volume pushes research on Umm Kulthūm, Arab music, and Arab society in important new directions.”

MICHAEL FRISHKOPF, editor of Music and Media in the Arab World

LAURA LOHMAN is an assistant professor in the Department of Music at California State University, Fullerton.

Music at Wesleyan
From Glee Club to Gamelan
MARK SLOBIN

A vividly illustrated, richly anecdotal account of over 150 years of music at Wesleyan University

This is the first account of the evolution of music at Wesleyan University, a campus known since the mid-nineteenth century for its musical life—first as the “Singing College of New England” and then, after 1960, as the home of a renowned department that integrates world music studies with more traditional Western and experimental musical forms. Vividly illustrated with both historical and contemporary images, the book compactly surveys a wide range of musical formations, practices, repertoires, and events from the 1830s to the early 2000s. Music at Wesleyan presents a portrait of the school that today blends educational innovation and cultural diversity with creative passion and intellectual rigor. Includes a foreword by Richard K. Winslow, and a companion web site with audio files of glee club, gamelan, jazz, experimental, African, Indian, and other performances.

MARK SLOBIN is a professor of music at Wesleyan University. He is the author of Fiddler on the Move and Subcultural Sounds, and the editor of Global Soundtracks.
How To Do Things with Dance
Performing Change in Postwar America
REBEKAH J. KOWAL

How American modern dance contributed to aesthetic and social change in the 1950s

How To Do Things with Dance positions modern dance as a vital critical discourse and suggests that dances of the late 1940s and the 1950s can be seen as compelling agents of social change. According to Daniel Belgrad, author of Culture of Spontaneity: Improvisation and the Arts in Postwar America, “Kowal convincingly argues that the most salient point of postwar American dance was not the insularity of objectivism but the engagement of action. By questioning the normative movement practices inscribed on our bodies, choreographers like Anna Sokolow, Merce Cunningham, and Anna Halprin bridged method acting and the sit-ins.” Artists covered also include Martha Graham, José Limón, Katherine Dunham, Pearl Primus, Paul Taylor, Donald McKayle, and Talley Beatty.

“Kowal’s book demonstrates persuasively that mid-century dance initiatives contributed crucial innovations to modern dance. Her research combines meticulous scholarship with a broad and insightful command of U.S. history.”

SUSAN LEIGH FOSTER, professor, UCLA

REBEKAH J. KOWAL is an associate professor of dance at the University of Iowa.

Choreographing Asian America

YUTIAN WONG

A critical study of Asian American performance and creative process

Poised at the intersection of Asian American studies and dance studies, Choreographing Asian America is the first book-length examination of the role of Orientalist discourse in shaping Asian Americanist entanglements with U.S. modern dance history. Moving beyond the acknowledgment that modern dance has its roots in Orientalist appropriation, Yutian Wong considers the effect that invisible Orientalism has on the reception of work by Asian American choreographers and the conceptualization of Asian American performance as a category. Drawing on ethnographic and choreographic research methods, the author follows the work of Club O’ Noodles—a Vietnamese American performance ensemble—to understand how Asian American artists respond to competing narratives of representation, aesthetics, and social activism that often frame the production of Asian American performance.

“Choreographing Asian America takes us on an engrossing journey through Asian American dance and politics. At times personal, philosophical, irreverent, and somber, Wong engages the most basic questions of Asian American bodies, movements, representation, desire, and dance.”

JOSEPHINE LEE, author of Performing Asian America: Race and Ethnicity on the Contemporary Stage

YUTIAN WONG is an assistant professor in the School of Music and Dance at San Francisco State University.
My Vocabulary Did This to Me

The Collected Poetry of Jack Spicer

JACK SPICER
EDITED BY PETER GIZZI AND KEVIN KILLIAN

The essential collection of a highly original American poet

In 1965, when the poet Jack Spicer died at the age of forty, he left behind a trunkful of papers and manuscripts and a few copies of the seven small books he had seen to press. Now, more than forty years later, Spicer’s voice is more compelling, insistent, and timely than ever.

"Jack Spicer was one of America’s great, complicated, noisy and unjustly forgotten poets of heartbreak and abject loneliness.”

Dwight Garner,
The New York Times

PETER GIZZI is a poet and author of numerous books, including The Outernationale. He lives in western Massachusetts and is the poetry editor at The Nation. KEVIN KILLIAN is a poet, novelist, critic, and playwright living in San Francisco.

This project is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Versed

RAE ARMANTROUT

2010 Pulitzer Prize Winner
2009 National Book Critics Circle Winner
2009 National Book Award Finalist

The poems in Versed play with vice and versa, the perversity of human consciousness. They flirt with error and delusion, skating on a thin ice that inevitably cracks: “Metaphor forms / a crust / beneath which / the crevasse of each experience.” The invisible and unknowable are confronted directly as Armantrout’s experience with cancer marks these poems with a new austerity, shot through with her signature wit and stark unsentimental thinking. These poems of Versed part us from our assumptions about reality, revealing the gaps and fissures in our emotional and linguistic constructs, showing us ourselves where we are most exposed.

RAE ARMANTROUT is a professor of writing and literature at the University of California, San Diego, and the author of ten books of poetry.

This project is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Barbed Wire

An Ecology of Modernity

REVIEL NETZ

The history of animals and humans as seen through barbed wire

In this controversial book, historian and philosopher Reviel Netz explores the development of a controlling and pain-inducing technology—barbed wire. Surveying its development from 1874 to 1954, Netz describes its use to control cattle during the colonization of the American West and to control people in Nazi concentration camps and the Russian Gulag. Physical control over space was no longer symbolic after 1874.

“This meticulous, searching, and highly original examination of violence and oppression weaves together entirely unexpected strands into a deeply disturbing picture of how the modern world evolved, and raises hard questions, starkly delineated, challenging and profoundly significant.”

Noam Chomsky, professor of linguistics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

REVIEL NETZ is a professor of classics at Stanford University, where he teaches courses in history and the philosophy of science.

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