

1907/2007: Poets on *Les Demoiselles d'Avignon* PROGRAM BIOS

Mary Jo Bang is the author of four books of poetry, including *Louise in Love* and *The Eye Like a Strange Balloon*. Her fifth collection, *ELEGY*, is forthcoming from Graywolf Press in October 2007. A graduate of the Columbia University MFA program, she is currently an Associate Professor of English and Director of the Creative Writing Program at Washington University in St. Louis. She has received a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Bakeless Prize, and a Hodder Fellowship from Princeton University. She is currently at work on a verse translation of Dante's *Inferno*.

Mary Ann Caws is Distinguished Professor of English, French, Comparative Literature, and Film Studies at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. She is a recipient of Guggenheim, National Endowment for the Humanities, Getty, and Rockefeller fellowships, and is the former president of the Modern Language Association, the American Comparative Literature Association, and the Association for the Study of Dada and Surrealism. She has served on many editorial boards and national committees, and has lectured widely on topics relating to art and literature. Her books include *The Poetry of Dada and Surrealism; The Eye in the Text; Women of Bloomsbury: Virginia, Vanessa, and Carrington; The Surrealist Look: An Erotics of Encounter; Picasso's Weeping Woman: The Life and Art of Dora Maar; Robert Motherwell with Pen and Brush; To the Boathouse: A Memoir; Illustrated Lives* volumes on Marcel Proust, Virginia Woolf, and Henry James; two volumes of *Critical Lives: Pablo Picasso*; and the forthcoming *Salvador Dali*. In 2006 she published *Surprised in Translation and Glorious Eccentrics: Modernist Women Writing and Painting*. She is the editor and co-translator of the *Harper Collins World Reader; Mallarme in Prose; Surrealist Painters and Poets; The Yale Anthology of Twentieth Century French Poetry*; and *Surrealism*, and the translator of many works by French poets. Website: maryanncaws.com

Pierre Joris, a poet, translator, and essayist, left Luxembourg at nineteen and has since lived in the U.S., Great Britain, North Africa, and France. He is the author of *Poasis: Selected Poems 1986–1999*, two chapbooks of poetry, *Permanent Diaspora* and *The Rothenberg Variations*, and a collection of essays, *A Nomad Poetics* (2003). Recent translations include *Paul Celan: Selections* (2005), *Lightduress by Paul Celan* (2004), which received the 2005 PEN Poetry Translation Award, and *4x1: Work by Tristan Tzara, Rainer Maria Rilke, Jean-Pierre Duprey & Habib Tengour* (2002). With Jerome Rothenberg, he edited the award-winning anthologies *Poems for the Millennium* and *Pablo Picasso, The Burial of the Count of Orgaz & Other Poems*. Joris' 2007 poetry publications include the CD *Routes, not Roots* (with Munir Beken, oud, Mike Bisio, bass, Ben Chadabe, percussion, & Mitch Elrod, guitar); *Aljibar* (a bilingual volume of poems w/ French translations by Eric Sarnier) and *Meditations on the Stations of Mansour Al-Hallaj 1-21*. In the fall of 2003 he was Berlin Prize Fellow at the American Academy in Berlin. He spent his fall 2005 sabbatical in Fez, Morocco, studying Arabic and gathering materials for an anthology on Maghrebian writing throughout history. He often performs his work in collaboration with vocalist and visual artist Nicole Peyrafitte, most recently touring their multimedia show *SumericaBachbones* throughout Europe and the U.S. He teaches poetry and poetics at the State University of New York, Albany. Website: pierrejoris.com

Jerome Rothenberg is an internationally known poet with over seventy books of poetry and several assemblages of traditional and contemporary poetry, such as *Technicians of the Sacred* and *Poems for the Millennium* (with Pierre Joris). *A Book of Witness*, his twelfth book of poems from New Directions, appeared in 2003, and a thirteenth book, *Triptych*, is scheduled for 2007. He is the co-editor and co-translator, again with Pierre Joris, of Pablo Picasso's *The Burial of the Count of Orgaz & Other Poems* (2004).