

The CCNY English Department

presents

“*The Contrapuntal Air*”

A Panel Discussion on the Convergence of Islamic and Western Literary Traditions, the poet Agha Shahid Ali, New Arab Poetry, and the Role of the Literary Journal. Including Khaled Mattawa, Christopher Merrill, Marilyn Hacker, Ram Devineni and organized by Yerra Sugarman with M. L. Williams.

The following will be discussed: Islamic poetics, especially in relationship to Western literary traditions, and the revival and significance of the ghazal form in English; the work of the late Kashmiri-American poet, scholar and teacher, Agha Shahid Ali and that of new Arab poets featured in the spring 2002 issue of the journal *Rattapallax*; poetry of exile and witness; the importance of the new literary journal as a site of timely aesthetic / social discourse.

Thursday, April 4, 2:00 – 4:00 PM.

The Simon H. Rifkind Seminar Room, NAC 6/316

The City College of New York
Convent Avenue at 138th Street
New York, NY 10031

Khaled Mattawa is the author of *Ismlilia Eclipse* (poems, The Sheep Meadow Press), the co-editor of *Post Gibrán: Anthology of New Arab American Writing* (Syracuse University Press) and the translator of three books of Arab poetry. He is an assistant professor of English at the University of Texas, Austin.

Christopher Merrill's books include four collections of poetry, *Brilliant Water*, *Workbook*, *Fevers & Tides*, and *Watch Fire*. He has translated the work of Ale Debeljak. His books of nonfiction include, *The Old Bridge: The Third Balkan War and the Age of the Refugee* and *Only the nails Remain: Scenes from the Balkan Wars*. He directs the International Writing Program at The University of Iowa.

Marilyn Hacker is the author of nine books of poetry, including *Squares and Courtyards* (W. W. Norton & Company, 2000), and *Winter Numbers* (1994). Her collection of poems *Desesperanto* is forthcoming. She has translated the poetry of Claire Malroux and Venus Khoury-Ghata, and is a professor in the Department of English at The City College.

Ram Devineni is the publisher of *Rattapallax* Press and a film-maker who has had films shown at the Cairo International Film Festival, San Jose Film Festival, etc. He organized “Dialogue Among Civilizations Through Poetry” for the UN.

Yerra Sugarman's book of poems, *Forms of Gone*, will be published by The Sheep Meadow Press in 2002. She teaches expository writing at New York University and is a student in the Graduate Program in Creative Writing at The City College.

M. L. Williams recently co-edited *How Much Earth: The Fresno Poets* (Roundhouse Press, 2001). His work has appeared in *Versé and Universe*, *The Geography of Home*, *Solo*, *Quarterly West*, *Hubbub*, and elsewhere. He teaches creative writing at Valdosta State University.

For further information, please e-mail Yerra Sugarman at YERSUG@AOL.COM.

Co-Sponsored by the Simon H. Rifkind Center