

April 1, 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EVENT: The first ever Buddhist Poetry Festival at Zen Mountain Monastery

DATES: July 5-8, 2018 (Thursday through Sunday)

FEATURED WRITERS INCLUDE: Jane Hirshfield (CA), David Hinton (VT), Chase Twichell (NY), Ocean Vuong (MA), Margaret Gibson (CT)

LOCATION: Zen Mountain Monastery — 871 Plank Road, Mount Tremper, NY — 12457

WEBSITE: www.BuddhistPoetryFestival.org

ZMM website: <http://zmm.mro.org>

Zen Mountain Monastery will be hosting its first ever Buddhist Poetry Festival July 5th - 8th, 2018. The Festival is designed for anyone who resonates with Buddhist teachings—or mindfulness more generally—regardless of their own level of engagement with any particular tradition. Scheduled activities include readings, workshops and live conversations with the featured writers, plus organic communal meals and plenty of time to interact with fellow festival attendees.

Participants may arrive on Thursday or Friday evenings if they wish to partake of overnight accommodations. Day passes are also available for Friday and/or Saturday (9am-9pm).

The setting for the festival is Zen Mountain Monastery in New York's Catskill Mountains, just 15 minutes west of Woodstock. For nearly 40 years, ZMM has blended a traditional approach to Buddhist practice with an innovative engagement with the arts. Past guest instructors have included writers Allen Ginsburg, Natalie Goldberg, and Anne Waldman; visual artists Ross Bleckner and Pat Steir; and composers Meredith Monk and Pauline Oliveros.

The Festival is honored to feature some of our time's most celebrated voices in the conversation between Buddhist practice and creative writing:

Jane Hirshfield

Books include *The Beauty* (2015), *Ten Windows: How Great Poems Transform the World* (2015), *Nine Gates: Entering the Mind of Poetry* (1998), and *Come Thief* (2006). Hirshfield's many honors include The Poetry Center Book Award; fellowships from the Guggenheim and Rockefeller Foundations, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Academy of American Poets; Columbia University's Translation Center Award; and (both twice) The California Book Award and the Northern California Book Reviewers Award. In 2012 she was received the Donald Hall-Jane Kenyon Prize in American Poetry.

David Hinton

Widely celebrated translator and essayist whose work focuses on the classical period of Chinese poetry and philosophy. In 2014, the American Society of Arts and Letters gave Hinton the prestigious Thornton Wilder Lifetime Achievement Award. His fellow poet, W.S. Merwin wrote, "*Hinton's achievement is a gift to our language.*" Other honors include fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. He has also received both of the major awards given for poetry translation in the United States: the Landon

Translation Award from the Academy of American Poets, and the PEN Translation Award from the PEN American Center.

Margaret Gibson

A Professor Emerita at the University of Connecticut, Gibson is the author of 11 books of poems, most recently *Broken Cup* (2014), whose title poem won a Pushcart Prize in 2016. She is also the author of a memoir, *The Prodigal Daughter* (2008). A new book of poems, *Not Hearing the Wood Thrush*, will be published later this year. A poem from that collection, "Passage" appears in *The Best Poems of 2017*. *The Vigil* was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in 1993.

Ocean Vuong

A relatively new voice to the American poetry scene, Ocean Vuong made a big splash with his debut collection, *Night Sky with Exit Wounds*. A New York Times Top 10 Book of 2016, the debut was a winner of the Whiting Award, the Thom Gunn Award, the T.S. Eliot Prize, and the Forward Prize for Best First Collection. Vuong's work has appeared in the New Yorker, the Atlantic, Harper's, the New Republic, and the New York Times.

Chase Twichell

Recent work includes the poetry collections *Dog Language* (2005), and *Horses Where the Answers Should Have Been: New and Selected Poems* (2010), which won the Kinglsey Tufts Award. With Tony K. Stewart, Twichell co-translated Rabindranath Tagore's *The Love of God* (2003). Twichell's work has received awards from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Artists' Foundation, the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, and the American Academy of Arts and Letters. She has taught at Princeton University, Goddard College, Warren Wilson College, the University of Alabama, and Hampshire College.

Festival registration costs include all meals and shared accommodation:

Arriving Thursday evening:	\$490
Arriving Friday evening:	\$425
Day passes for Friday or Saturday:	\$95

To register, please visit www.BuddhistPoetryFestival.org.

For any questions, please call Zen Mountain Monastery at 845-688-2228 or email us at registrar@mro.org.