Poets in Translation

The Santa Fe Art Institute is pleased to announce the 2008 Poetry Translator Residency Selections. Don Bogen and Stephen Tapscott are the recipients of this year’s award supported by the Witter Bynner Foundation for Poetry.

Stephen Tapscott

Stephen Tapscott will work on revising his translation of Georg Trakl’s Selected Poems. Trakl is often praised as a “German Expressionist” poet most famous for his final sequence of shocked lyrics, written between Trakl’s traumatic experience on the battlefield on the Eastern Front (1918) and his suicide several weeks later. Tapscott is a poet whose fields of interest include creative writing (poetry, experimental prose), poetry as a literary genre, and translation. His academic interests include North American writing, especially Walt Whitman, Anglo-American Modernists, writers since WWII, Latin American poetry, world poetries in Russian, German, and Polish; autobiography; gender studies and queer studies; photography and other visual arts. He has published five books of his own poems and a book of criticism on Walt Whitman and William Carlos Williams. In recent years he’s edited an anthology of Latin American Poetry, and translated books by Pablo Neruda (One Hundred Love Sonnets), Jan Twardowski (God Asks for Love), Wislawa Szymborska (The End and the Beginning), and Gabriela Mistral (Selected Prose and Prose Poems).

Don Bogen

Don Bogen will spend his residency completing work on Europa: Selected Poems of Julio Martinez Mesanza, a volume of translations from the work of one of the leading poets in Spain today. Mesanza has a very unified body of work. His basic themes have to do with history and culture, warfare from modern Europe back to the Greeks, spiritual and ethical concerns, art and its relation to power. Although Mesanza has been translated into English before, Bogen’s project is to produce a large selection of the poet’s work over the past twenty-five years that would give English-speaking readers a sense of his particular achievement. Don Bogen was born in Sheboygan, Wisconsin and grew up there and in Southern California. He did undergraduate and graduate work at the University of California, Berkeley.

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Bogen is the author of *A Necessary Order: Theodore Roethke and the Writing Process* (Ohio University Press, 1991) and three books of poetry from Wesleyan University Press: *After the Splendid Display* (1986), *The Known World* (1997) and *Luster* (2003). His poems have appeared in *The New Republic*, *Poetry*, *The Paris Review* and other journals. Prizes for his work include The Writer / Emily Dickinson Award of the Poetry Society of America, a Discovery / The Nation Award, and fellowships from the Camargo Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts. He has collaborated with composers from the U.S. and abroad and has translated the libretto of the opera *Clotho: The Life of Camille Claudel*. Other translations from the German include poems by Johannes Bobrowski and Bertolt Brecht. A Fulbright Senior Lecturer in Spain in 2003, Bogen taught at the University of Santiago de Compostela and the University of Vigo; in 2007 he was a visiting professor in the M.F.A. program at the University of California, Irvine. Work from his current translation project, selected poems of the contemporary Spanish poet Julio Martínez Mesanza, is forthcoming in *Poetry Northwest*, *Literary Imagination*, *Poetry International* and *Pleiades*. Bogen is a professor in the Department of English and Comparative Literature at the University of Cincinnati, where he serves as Poetry Editor of *The Cincinnati Review*.

The SFAI is the home of the only poetry translation residency in North America that offers a free residency for one month, stipend and travel. The residency is an invaluable opportunity for emerging poetry translators, both nationally and internationally. The SFAI and Witter Bynner collaboration provide a truly unique experience and opportunity for the very important work of translating and interpreting between languages. The time and space at the SFAI provides an oasis for poetry translators to work undisturbed, while the community of Santa Fe offers them a vibrant, receptive forum for presentation and discussion.

The Santa Fe Art Institute explores the interconnections of contemporary art and society through artist and writer residencies, public lectures and workshops, exhibitions, and educational outreach. SFAI Artist and Writer Residencies are supported by the Pollock Krasner Foundation, the Warhol Foundation, Joan Mitchell Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts and the Witter Bynner Foundation.

For Interview requests and more information, please contact Residency Director Gabe Gomez at (505) 424-5050.