

Of Poems: An Exploration of the Wesleyan Poetry Program

The Wesleyan Poetry Program is one of the most prestigious and influential poetry programs in the United States. Founded in 1953, the program has a long and distinguished history of producing some of the most important poets of our time. Alumni of the program include Pulitzer Prize winners Carolyn Kizer, Donald Justice, and Mary Oliver, as well as National Book Award winners Robert Pinsky, Mary Jo Bang, and Tracy K. Smith.

The Wesleyan Poetry Program is a two-year Master of Fine Arts (MFA) program that offers a rigorous and supportive environment for emerging poets. The program's curriculum includes workshops, seminars, readings, and conferences, and students have the opportunity to work closely with a faculty of distinguished poets.



The Tennis Court Oath: A Book of Poems (Wesleyan Poetry Program) by John Ashbery

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

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Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Print length : 95 pages



The Wesleyan Poetry Program is committed to the study and practice of poetry in all its forms. The program's faculty is diverse in terms of

aesthetics and poetics, and students are encouraged to explore a wide range of poetic styles and traditions.

The Wesleyan Poetry Program has had a profound impact on the American literary landscape. The program's alumni have gone on to become some of the most important poets of our time, and their work has helped to shape the course of American poetry.

The History of the Wesleyan Poetry Program

The Wesleyan Poetry Program was founded in 1953 by Wesleyan University president Victor L. Butterfield and poet R. P. Blackmur. Blackmur was the program's first director, and he was succeeded by poets Richard Wilbur, John Ashbery, and Donald Justice.

The early years of the Wesleyan Poetry Program were marked by a strong commitment to formalist poetics. However, in the 1960s and 1970s, the program began to embrace a more diverse range of poetic styles. This shift was due in part to the influence of poets such as Robert Creeley, Denise Levertov, and John Cage, who were all teaching at Wesleyan at the time.

In the 1980s and 1990s, the Wesleyan Poetry Program continued to grow and evolve. The program's faculty expanded to include poets such as Carolyn Kizer, Mary Oliver, and Robert Pinsky. The program also began to offer a wider range of courses, including courses on creative writing, literary theory, and poetry translation.

Today, the Wesleyan Poetry Program is one of the most respected and influential poetry programs in the United States. The program's alumni have gone on to become some of the most important poets of our time, and the

program's faculty is committed to the study and practice of poetry in all its forms.

The Mission of the Wesleyan Poetry Program

The mission of the Wesleyan Poetry Program is to provide a rigorous and supportive environment for emerging poets. The program is committed to the study and practice of poetry in all its forms, and students are encouraged to explore a wide range of poetic styles and traditions.

The Wesleyan Poetry Program believes that poetry is a vital art form that can help us to understand ourselves and the world around us. The program is committed to helping students develop their poetic voices and to prepare them for a life in the literary arts.

The Impact of the Wesleyan Poetry Program

The Wesleyan Poetry Program has had a profound impact on the American literary landscape. The program's alumni have gone on to become some of the most important poets of our time, and their work has helped to shape the course of American poetry.

The Wesleyan Poetry Program has also had a significant impact on the teaching of poetry. The program's faculty has developed a unique approach to teaching poetry that emphasizes close reading, critical thinking, and creative writing. This approach has been adopted by poetry programs around the country.

The Wesleyan Poetry Program is a vital part of the American literary landscape. The program's commitment to the study and practice of poetry

has helped to produce some of the most important poets of our time, and the program's alumni continue to shape the course of American poetry.

The Work of Some Notable Wesleyan Poetry Program Alumni

The Wesleyan Poetry Program has produced a long list of distinguished poets, including Pulitzer Prize winners Carolyn Kizer, Donald Justice, and Mary Oliver, as well as National Book Award winners Robert Pinsky, Mary Jo Bang, and Tracy K. Smith.

Carolyn Kizer was a poet, translator, and editor. She was the first woman to win the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry, which she received in 1985 for her collection *Yin*. Kizer's



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