

Arts & Letters

The Center for Arts & Letters
at Rockhurst University

September/October 2011

Religion Scholar Analyzes Islam's Place in a Pluralistic Society



Reza Aslan, world-renowned writer and scholar of religion and associate professor at the University of California—Riverside, will deliver the Rev. William L. Rossner, S.J., Lecture in Theology, "Ten Years Later: Islamophobia

and Understanding Muslims," for the Visiting Scholar Lecture Series. The Wednesday, Sept. 21, lecture begins at 7:30 p.m. in Mabee Theater.

Aslan is one of America's foremost commentators on trends within Islam and plays a central role in contemporary inter-religious dialogue. He is vocal in his criticism of Islamic forms that

he views as incompatible with human dignity. His talk will examine Islam's place in a pluralistic society and the persistence of anti-Islamic trends in the United States.

Born in Iran, Aslan appears regularly on CNN, ABC News, Nightline, The Daily Show, Real Time with Bill Maher and CBS News. His first book was the international bestseller, *No god but God: The Origins, Evolution, and Future of Islam*, which has been translated into 13 languages.

Aslan holds a Ph.D. from the University of California—Santa Barbara and degrees in religious studies from Harvard University and Santa Clara University. He earned an M.F.A. from the University of Iowa and was named the Truman Capote Fellow in Fiction.

To register your attendance to this free lecture, call 816-501-4828.

Robert Bly Opens Midwest Poets Series Season

Robert Bly's impact on 20th- and 21st-century literature—as a poet, critic, translator, commentator, editor, publisher, mentor, and, let's say it, visionary—cannot be underestimated.

It is hard to find a poet who came of age during the latter part of the 20th century who has not been influenced by the writings and teachings of Bly. "Robert Bly has insured his place as a major figure in American poetry," says *Library Journal*. Do not miss Bly's reading at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 20, in Mabee Theater, Sedgwick Hall.

Robert Bly's *The Light Around the Body* won the 1968 National Book Award. His recent books include *Talking Into the Ear of a Donkey*, *My Sentence Was a Thousand Years of Joy*, *The Night Abraham Called to the Stars*, *Morning Poems* and *Eating the Honey of Words*.

As one of the great English translators of international poetry, some of Bly's best translations include works by Pablo Neruda, Antonio Machado, Rainer Maria Rilke, Tomas Tranströmer and Hafez. His translations have appeared recently in *The Winged Energy of Delight: Selected Translations*. In 2008, his translations of Hafez were published in *Angels Knocking on the Tavern Door*.

Admission is \$3 at the door. No one will be denied entrance for lack of funds. A reception and book signing follow the reading. For more information, call 816-501-4607.

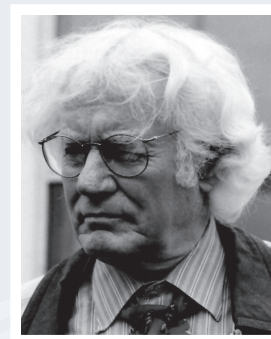


Photo by Ann Arbor

Submissions Requested for Fine Arts Journal

Rockhurst Review is accepting original, unpublished poems, essays, short fiction, drama and artwork for its 2012 journal. Submissions will be accepted from Sept. 14 through Jan. 13, 2012.

Requirements include: fiction, not to exceed 2,500 words; dramas not to exceed 10 pages; poems not to exceed 10 pages with a five-poem maximum; essays not to exceed 2,500 words; and art not to exceed five photographs and photographs of one's own artwork.

Include a brief biography, address, phone number, e-mail address and cover letter. Send electronic submissions to rockhurstreview@hawks.rockhurst.edu. In the subject line, include your name and "submission."

Send mailed entries to Rockhurst Review, Patricia Cleary Miller, Department of English, 1100 Rockhurst Road, Kansas City, MO 64110; include a SASE. Manuscripts will not be returned.

Events Calendar

Unless otherwise indicated,
all events listed below are free of charge.

August 26 – October 1 Greenlease Gallery

Between Thee and Me
Group Invitational Exhibition
Curator: Anne Pearce
Opening, Friday, August 26
Panel Discussion: 5:30 p.m.
Reception: 7-9 p.m.
Greenlease Gallery

September 1, 8, 15 Foreign Language Film Festival

Sept. 1 – “Bella”
Sept. 8 – “Of Gods and Men”
Sept. 15 – “Volver”
Thursdays, 7 p.m. Mabee Theater
\$3 each film, \$7 for the series

September 21 Visiting Scholar Lecture Series

Reza Aslan, Ph.D.
“Ten Years Later: Islamophobia
and Understanding Muslims”
Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
Mabee Theater
Register attendance: 816-501-4828

October 6 - 9 Rockhurst Theatre

An Evening of Short Plays
“Booby Trap” by Ed Monk
“The Real Inspector Hound”
by Tom Stoppard
Thursday & Friday 8 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday 2 p.m.
Mabee Theater, Sedgwick Hall
Tickets: \$8 at the door

October 9 Musica Sacra Chorus and Orchestra

Francesco Durante
Litaniae Lauretanae (Litany of Loreto)
Johann Sebastian Bach
Christ lag in Todesbanden
(*Christ Lay in Bonds of Death*)
George Frideric Handel
O Praise the Lord with One Consent
Sunday, 7 p.m.

St. Francis Xavier Church
52nd and Troost Avenue
Tickets: \$18, \$12 students & seniors
Call Central Ticket Office,
816-235-6222
or purchase at the church or at
www.rockhurst.edu/mstickets

October 18 Visiting Scholar Lecture Series

Daniel Sulmasy, M.D., Ph.D.
“Ethical Issues in Care
at the End of Life”
Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
Mabee Theater
Register attendance: 816-501-4828

October 20 Midwest Poets Series

Robert Bly
Thursday, 7 p.m.
Mabee Theater
Admission: \$3

October 21 – December 3 Greenlease Gallery

Guest Curator: Elisabeth Kirsch
“Celestial Terrestrials: Between
Heaven and Earth”
Opening, Friday, October 21
Gallery Talk: 6:30 p.m.
Reception: 7-9 p.m.

October 26 Plays-in-Progress Workshop

Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
Sedgwick Hall, Room 115
Donations accepted at the door

November 7 Return to the Classics

The Brothers Karamazov
by Fyodor Dostoyevsky
Monday, 7 p.m.
Massman Hall, Room 241
Cost: \$25 includes the book and
refreshments
Reservations required
Call 816-501-4607

Greenlease Gallery, Epsten Gallery Exhibits Explore Relationship Between Art, Religion



*Saint Charles B[rromeo, Antiveduto
Grammatica, oil on canvas, 1612*

“Between Thee and Me,” a collaborative project between the Greenlease Gallery’s Van Ackeren Collection of Religious Art and the Michael Klein Judaica Collection at the Epsten Gallery at Village Shalom—a program of the Kansas City Jewish Museum of Contemporary Art— attempts to bridge actual and perceived cultural distances among the artistic, Jewish and Jesuit communities.

Anne Pearce, director of the Greenlease

Gallery, and Marcus Cain, curator of KCJMCA, invited area artists to respond to works in these religious art collections. Artists were asked to select an object or artifact that stimulated a visual response and to create a work of art from this inspiration.

The works will be featured in two independent, invitational group exhibitions. The first will open Sunday, July 24, in the Epsten Gallery at Village Shalom and will be on display until Sept. 4. The second will open Friday, Aug. 26, in Rockhurst’s Greenlease Gallery and will be on display until Oct. 1.

Each exhibit will open with a panel discussion at 5:30 p.m. followed by a reception from 7-9 p.m. For more information, contact Anne Pearce at 816-501-4407 or anne.pearce@rockhurst.edu.

Film Series Presents Spanish, French Movies

The Rockhurst Film Series and the Department of Classical and Modern Languages and Literature present three films expressing the theme *Finding God in All Things*. The films will be shown in Mabee Theater at 7 p.m. Admission is \$3; \$7 for the series.

Sept. 1 *Bella* (2006) Set in New York City, this love story tells how the lives of three people are changed forever. With Ramon Rodriguez, Tammy Blanchard; directed by Alejandro Monteverde (Spanish with English subtitles; 91 min.)

Sept. 8 *Of Gods and Men* (2010) Inspired by a true story, Trappist monks stationed in an impoverished Algerian community must decide whether to leave or stay as civil war ensues. With Lambert Wilson, Michael Lonsdale; directed by Xavier Beauvois (French with English subtitles; 122 min.)

Sept. 15 *Volver* (2006) After her death, a mother returns to her hometown to fix the situations she could not resolve during her life. With Penelope Cruz, Carmen Maura; directed by Pedro Almodovar. (Spanish with English subtitles; 121 min.)

Return to the Classics to Discuss *The Brothers Karamazov*

Return to the Classics, a discussion group led by Tom Ventresca, ’70, will analyze Fyodor Dostoyevsky’s last novel, *The Brothers Karamazov*. The discussion will take place at 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 7, in Massman Hall, Room 241.

The Brothers Karamazov, published in 1880, is set in a small town in Russia in about 1870. The plot consists of a series of love triangles, a murder mystery and a courtroom drama. It is also a philosophical novel that explores the ethical debate of God, free will and morality.

To reserve a space for the book discussion, contact The Center for Arts and Letters at 816-501-4607. The cost, \$25, includes the book and refreshments.

Greenlease Gallery

Thurs–Sat, 12–5 p.m. • By appointment: 816-501-4407

Musica Sacra Performs Durante, Bach, Handel Oct. 9

Musica Sacra Chorus and Orchestra opens its 21st season Sunday, Oct. 9, with a regional premiere of the *Litaniae Lauretanae* (*Litany of Loreto*) by Neapolitan baroque composer Francesco Durante.

Unlike many of his contemporaries, Durante focused on sacred music rather than opera. He served as *primo maestro* at two of Naples' conservatories and several major churches. He died in 1755 at the age of 71, a highly respected teacher and composer.

The ensemble also will perform Johann Sebastian Bach's cantata *Christ lag in Todesbanden* (*Christ Lay in Bonds of Death*), BWV 4, an Easter cantata composed in 1708. Opening with an expressive instrumental sinfonia, the work contains seven movements, each a variation on the chorale melody on which the work is based. The work employs some of Bach's most reflective examples of musical rhetoric and symbolism.

The concert will conclude with several choruses from George Frideric Handel's *O Praise the Lord with One Consent*. Written between 1717 and 1719, the work features some of Handel's most joyful and glorious music.

The Oct. 9 concert begins at 7 p.m. in St. Francis Xavier Church, 52nd and Troost Avenue. Live Program Notes by Artistic Director Timothy L. McDonald begins at 6:15. Concert tickets are available through the Central Ticket Office, 816-235-6222, at www.rockhurst.edu/mstickets or at the church.

Center for Arts and Letters Selects Switzerland and Northern Italy as 2012 Destination

The Center for Arts and Letters has selected some of Europe's most picturesque sights for its 2012 trip—Switzerland and Northern Italy. This trip will combine the unparalleled beauty of Switzerland's alpine peaks, green meadows and postcard-perfect villages with the splendor of Northern Italy's villas, gardens and lakes.

The trip is scheduled for April 25 to May 4. To receive a complete itinerary and brochure, call The Center for Arts and Letters at 816-501-4607 or e-mail cynthia.cartwright@rockhurst.edu.

Physician, Franciscan Friar, Ethicist Addresses End-of-Life Care

Daniel Sulmasy, O.F.M., M.D., Ph.D., is a Franciscan Friar, internist and ethicist whose theoretical and empirical investigations encompass the ethics of end-of-life decision-making, ethics education and spirituality in medicine. Sulmasy, the Kilbride-Clinton Professor of Medical Ethics at the Department of Medicine and The Divinity School of The University of Chicago, will deliver the Rev. William L. Rossner, S.J., Lecture in Philosophy as part of the Visiting Scholar Lecture Series. His lecture, "Ethical Issues in Care at the End of Life," begins at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 18, in Mabee Theater.



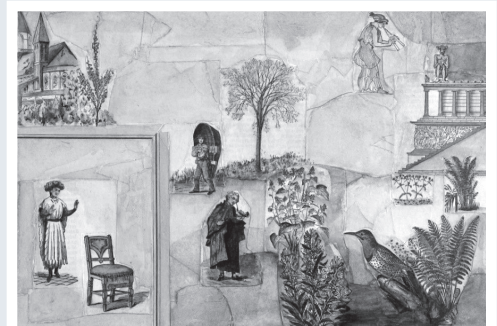
Sulmasy received his M.D. degree from Cornell University and completed his residency, chief residency and post-doctoral fellowship at the Johns Hopkins University Hospital. He received his Ph.D. in philosophy from Georgetown University, where he served as director of the Center for Clinical Bioethics and Senior Research Scholar of the Kennedy Institute of Ethics.

Sulmasy has served on numerous governmental advisory committees, including his recent appointment by President Obama to the Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues.

Dr. Sulmasy's first-hand insights promise to link end-of-life medicine and Roman Catholic ethical thought. To register your attendance to this free lecture, call 816-501-4828.

Greenlease Gallery Exhibit Focuses on Mystical Agents, Art

"Celestial Terrestrials: Between Heaven and Earth," a group exhibition curated by Elisabeth J. Kirsch, will open Friday, Oct. 21, in the Greenlease Gallery with paintings, works on paper, sculpture and videos by contemporary artists who deal with the complex subject of supernatural intermediaries. Artists include Marcus Cain, Tanya Hartman, Diane Henk, Jessica Kincaid, Christopher Leitch, Kim Linda-berry, Richard Montoya, Dylan Mortimer, Garry Noland, Ron Slowinski, Sun Smith-Foret, Vivian Torrence, Dan Younger and Richard Welnowski.



"Another Calling," collage and watercolor, 7"x 9 3/4", 1992

From prehistoric cave paintings, to guardian figures on African reliquaries, to countless statues of saints and angels, and to the pop culture superheroes and heroines, humans have sought help from spirit guides. Graphic novels and blockbuster movies featuring Spiderman, Superman, the X-Men and countless others striving to save humankind have never been more popular.

Kirsch has worked as a contemporary art curator, administrator, historian and critic in New York City and Kansas City since 1976. On Friday, Oct. 21, the public is invited to hear her talk at 6:30 p.m.; a reception follows from 7-9 in the Greenlease Gallery. The exhibit will be on display until Dec. 3. Contact Gallery Director Anne Pearce, 816-501-4077 for more information.



ROCKHURST
A Jesuit University

The Center for Arts & Letters
1100 Rockhurst Road
Kansas City, MO 64110

www.rockhurst.edu/artsandletters

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Kansas City, Mo.
Permit No. 782

Plays-in-Progress Seeks Manuscripts

The Plays-in-Progress Workshop invites playwrights and aspiring playwrights to submit manuscripts to its annual playwriting contest. Manuscripts of plays that have neither been given a public reading nor been performed on stage will be accepted now through Sept. 16. The winning playwright will receive a \$250 prize.

Following the reading, the playwright will interact with the actors, director and audience members who will assess the creative work.

The public is invited to submit manuscripts, which will not be returned, that are 35-110 pages in length to Charles Kovich, Department of English, Rockhurst University, 1100 Rockhurst Road, Kansas City, MO 64110. Please include your name and phone number with your manuscript.

The reading will take place at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 26, in Sedgwick Hall, Room 115. Refreshments will be provided; donations will be accepted at the door. Call 816-501-4607 for information.

Rockhurst Theatre Department Announces Its Season

Rockhurst University Theatre begins its season in October with An Evening of Short Plays. The first play, *Booby Trap* by Ed Monk, will be directed by Rockhurst senior LaTasha Bunting. This play is a dramatic look at 21st century war. The second play, *The Real Inspector Hound* by Tom Stoppard, will be directed by senior Lauren Hernandez. This play within a play satirizes the pretentious theatre critic as well as the theatre itself for its formulaic murder mystery plots. Performances begin at 8 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Oct. 6 and 7, and 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 8 and 9. Tickets are \$8 at the door.

The theatre season continues in November with *Gone Missing*, a documentary musical created by The Civilians. Steven Cosson wrote the play based on interviews dealing with loss. Music and lyrics are by Michael Friedman. Rockhurst's Susan Proctor directs the play with music direction by Tom Kodera. Performances are at 8 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Nov. 17 and 18, and 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 19 and 20. General admission is \$10.

In February, Rockhurst University Players presents its annual student written, directed and performed *theatreworks* (PG 13-R) at 8 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Feb. 16 and 17; donations will be accepted.

In April, Susan Proctor will direct the American classic comedy noir *Arsenic and Old Lace* by Joseph Kesselring—a hilarious look at two elderly ladies who decide the best treatment for their lonely peers. Performances are at 8 p.m. Thursday and Friday, April 19 and 20, and at 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, April 21 and 22. Tickets are \$8.

All performances will be in Mabee Theater.