The Midwest Poets Series

30TH SEASON  2012-2013

October 25 • Tracy K. Smith
November 29 • Valzhyna Mort
January 31 • Mark Doty
March 21 • Les Murray

www.rockhurst.edu/artsandletters

All parking lots, even those restricted, are open to Midwest Poets Series guests.
Mort is a fireball,” says Valzhyna Mort, born in Minsk, Belarus, made her 2008 American debut with the poetry collection, the only American poet to have won Great Britain’s T. S. Eliot Prize. His 1993 collection, My Alexandria (HarperCollins, 2008), which won the National Book Award. He is a fellow at the School of the Arts Institute of Chicago, the second poet to make a return appearance to the Midwest Poets Series. He lives in New York City and teaches at Rutgers.

“Les Murray has earned his reputation not only as one of Australia’s finest writers,” says Dorianne Laux, “but as one of the most engaging poets writing in English today.” She is author of twelve books of poetry, including The Biplane Houses (Graywolf, 2005). Murray was born on the north coast of New South Wales, Australia, and grew up on his grandfather’s dairy farm in the close-knit Presbyterian community of Bunyah. He lives in New South Wales.

Tracy K. Smith will present the Rev. Robert R. Burke, S.J., Memorial Reading October 25

Mark Doty was the author of eight books of poetry, including Five to Five: New and Selected Poems (HarperCollins, 2008), which won the National Book Award. He is the only American poet to have won Great Britain’s T. S. Eliot Prize. His 1993 collection, My Alexandria (HarperCollins, 2008), which won the National Book Award. He is a fellow at the School of the Arts Institute of Chicago, the second poet to make a return appearance to the Midwest Poets Series. He lives in New South Wales, Australia, and grew up on his grandfather’s dairy farm in the close-knit Presbyterian community of Bunyah. He lives in New York City and teaches at Rutgers.

Les Murray • Thursday, March 21

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For information about this series or other Rockhurst University cultural events, call The Center for Arts and Letters at 816-501-4607 or 816-501-4828 or visit www.rockhurst.edu/artsandletters.

Tracy K. Smith • Thursday, October 25

Tracy K. Smith, winner of the 2012 Pulitzer Prize in Poetry and one of poetry’s brightest stars, will launch the Midwest Poets Series’ 30th-anniversary year. Smith, who teaches at Princeton University, received the Pulitzer on her 40th birthday, for her book Life on Mars, which she was inspired by her grandfather’s space telescope engineer Smith’s other awards and honors include the 2002 Cave Canem Prize for her first collection, The Body’s Question, a 2004 Poets’ Selected Book Award, a 2004 Whiting Award, a 2005 Lannan Foundation Literary Award and a fellowship from the Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference. Smith’s first book, Since We Met, was a 2005 Finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award. Other volumes of poems include the critically acclaimed Duende (Graywolf, 2008), which received the T. S. Eliot Prize.

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