

Umbria Poesia

Umbria Poesia is a project that originated with the intention of shedding light on the relevance of poetry as a literary form in contemporary life — a literary form that provides a setting for conversation, sociability and entertainment among poets, poetry and the public at large. An art that reaches beyond the realm of experts and connoisseurs, poetry can serve as a vessel of communication more universal than is generally recognised. Poetry nourishes and promotes the fertility of language and reaffirms the public value of those who work in the literary arts, thus establishing a network of interaction that restores our understanding of literature's cultural formation. The creativity, imagination and thought embodied in literature are often distilled through the social media, ostensibly leading to their simplification to a sort of catalogue or table of reference. By assembling a forum of direct, face-to-face contact between the author and the reader, however, the true complexity and richness of literature can be brought to the surface.

The sessions will convene in the evening on a monthly basis and will last approximately one hour. They will focus on the relationship between poetry and a specific theme pertinent to the role of literature today, covering a range of topics. Some of the themes that have been brought into consideration include: poetry and borders, poetry and science, poetry and dance, poetry and social networks. What we are proposing is not only that the authors read their poetry, but also some of their literary models that they discuss it in the context of the particular theme chosen for the session. To each session we plan to invite an author already of considerable renown among the general public, who will appear alongside several emerging voices in poetry from Italy as well as abroad. Generational integration, intertextuality between texts and non-verbal media, and interdisciplinarity will be treated as issues of paramount centrality. We hope also that this project will involve the local schools and provide opportunity for young students to embrace contemporary poetry in a convivial and intellectually stimulating environment.

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