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Conference on Poetry Faculty Joan Houlihan

Joan Houlihan is author of four books of poetry, most recently, *Ay* (Tupelo Press, 2014). Her previous books are: *The Us*, named a must-read book of 2009 by Massachusetts Center for the Book, *The Mending Worm*, winner of the 2005 Green Rose Award



from New Issues Press, and *Hand-Held Executions: Poems & Essays*. In addition to publishing in a wide array of leading journals, including *Poetry*, *Boston Review*, *Harvard Review* and *Gulf Coast*, she has served as critic and editor at a series of online magazines, most recently *Contemporary Poetry Review*. She is the founder and director of the Colrain Poetry Manuscript Conference. She has taught at Columbia University and Emerson College and she currently teaches part-time at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts and serves on the faculty of Lesley University's Low-Residency MFA program in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Joan Houlihan on the Poetry Workshop

"To teach poetry is to first provide a context, an atmosphere, an expectation; an attitude that awaits, and honors, the appearance of the imagination. In a group of like-minded, trusting, and committed poets, I find there is both joy and discovery in engaging each poem on its own terms, and I also challenge those terms while respecting a poet's limits and personal aesthetics. I often ask poets to examine their assumptions about what a poem is, and to focus on the small elements of craft (line, syntax and line break, image and metaphor, sound and diction) as a way to inform the larger elements of poem-making: inspiration, author intention and reader response, innovation and communication. I also demonstrate how to radically re-envision a poem in the editing process."

What Eats Grass
By Joan Houlihan

WHAT EATS GRASS slow and bent-necked, eyed from the side, is deer.
Through branches hung with bee-nest,
swung, and the swarm
hums the air. At the edge,
one deer holds tall.

Ay want what is not *Ay*--
furred antler stript to a shine.
Flank. Hoof. Meat.
When the head turns, *Ay* stand,
aim the spear--to mine.

From *Ay*, published by Tupelo Press, copyright 2014 Joan Houlihan. Used with permission.

**Conference on Poetry and Teaching Faculty
Gibson Fay-LeBlanc Named Poetry Laureate
of Portland, Maine**

Gibson Fay-LeBlanc's first collection of poems, *Death of a Ventriloquist*, was chosen by Lisa Russ Spaar for the Vassar Miller Prize and published in 2012. The book received a starred review from *Publishers Weekly*, spent several weeks on the Poetry Foundation's list of contemporary best-sellers, and was featured by *Poets & Writers* as one of a dozen debut collections to watch. His poems have appeared most recently in *jubilat*, *Slice*, and *The Literary Review*, as well as on the *PBS NewsHour's Art Beat*, *The*



New Republic, and Tin House.

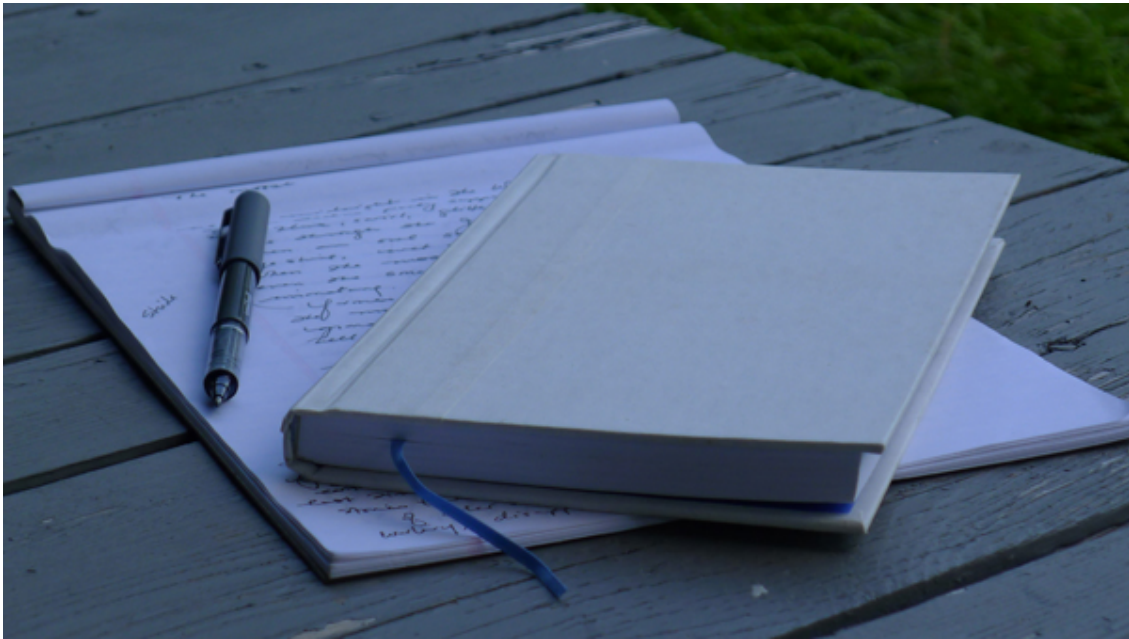
Portland's Fifth Poet Laureate: Gibson Fay-LeBlanc

The Portland Poet Laureate Nominating Committee has made its recommendation to the Portland City Council for the fifth Poet Laureate of Portland, ME. The nominee is **Gibson Fay-LeBlanc**, who will be the laureate for three years.

The Portland City Council intends to recognize the recommendation on May 18th, as part of its bi-monthly Council meetings open to the public. The official proclamation recognizing Mr. Fay-LeBlanc will be read by a City Council member followed by a reading of a poem selected or written for the occasion by the new poet laureate.

An Inaugural event is to be held at the Space Gallery on June 8th at 6:00 pm. "At the event, Marcia Brown, who is the current poet laureate, will pass on a ceremonial large wooden pen created for the occasion by a local artisan," said Bruce Spang, the chairman of the nomination committee. "Gibson will read from his poems and Chris Robley, a local poet and musician, will provide musical entertainment. The event is opened to the public."

The Portland Poet Laureate process began in 2008 with the election of Portland's Martin Steingesser as the first awardee, followed by Falmouth's Steve Luttrell in 2010 and Falmouth's Bruce Spang in 2012. Maine Poetry Central, a non-profit located in Kennebunk, provides institutional and inspirational support, including logistics and grant writing. Poets living for at least one year in Portland, South Portland, Scarborough, Falmouth, Westbrook, and Cape Elizabeth are eligible to be nominated by any other Maine resident.



The Frost Place Poetry Programs Come and Be Inspired.

Conference on Poetry and Teaching - June 21 - 25, 2015

Conference on Poetry - July 12 - 18, 2015

Poetry Seminar - August 2 - 8, 2015

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