

NATIONAL TRANSLATION MONTH™

PRESENTS



INTERNATIONAL VOICES

AN EVENING OF POETRY IN TRANSLATION

Saturday, September 17, 2016 • 6-8 p.m.

The Sidewalk Cafe • 94 Avenue A, New York, NY 10009

AKRAM ALKATREB was born in Salamiah, an ancient city near Hama. Salamiah is known as the “city of poets” because in almost every household lives a poet or two. Alkatreb has worked as an art critic and journalist since 1996, contributing to major Middle Eastern publications and newspapers in Lebanon, London, and Syria. He is a leading figure in what critics have called the “new wave” of Syrian poetry. Alkatreb has been living in United States since 2001.

ALEX CIGALE own poems in English have appeared in *Colorado Review*, *The Common Online*, and *The Literary Review*, and translations in *Kenyon Review Online*, *Modern Poetry in Translation*, *New England Review*, *PEN America*, *TriQuarterly* and *World Literature in Translation*. In 2015, he was awarded an NEA in Literary Translation Fellowship for his work on Mikhail Eremin, and guest edited the Spring 2015 *Russia Issue* of the *Atlanta Review*, writing about it for one week in *Best American Poetry*. His first full book, *Russian Absurd: the Selected Writings of Daniil Kharms* is forthcoming in the Northwestern University Press World Classics series in February 2017.

GIL FAGIANI is a translator, essayist, short story writer, and poet. His latest book is *Logos* (Guernica Editions, 2015). Gil co-hosts the Italian American Writers' Association's monthly readings in Manhattan. In 2014, he was the subject of a New York Times article by David Gonzalez, “A Poet Mines Memories of Drug Addiction.”

GEORGE HELD, a former Fulbright lecturer in Czechoslovakia and an eight-time Pushcart Prize nominee, publishes poems, fiction, and book reviews, both online and in print, and Garrison Keillor read one of Held's poems on *A Writer's Almanac*. His new book is *Bleak Splendor* (2016). *Phased 2* (Poets Wear Prada, 2017), more moon poems, is next.

HUSSAM JEFEE is a Syrian poet and psychiatrist. He was born in Lattakia, Syria, in 1983, and works as an assistant professor at the University of Massachusetts. He is the founder of (ta'sheeq project) that aims at presenting translated Syrian poetry in a multi-sensory experience, in readings and art with musical accompaniment. He published his first poetry collection, *The Opener of Canned Hope*, in Arabic in 2008. His second collection, *Birds Smoking Marijuana*, is currently on press at Al-Moutawasset publishing, Milano, Italy. He also published translations of American poetry in Arabic literary magazines and journals. As a musician and oud player, he has initiated various projects in the U.S. More at www.tasheeq.com/hussam-jefee/.

Born in USSR (1943) and educated in Romania, **VALERY OISTEANU** adopted Dada and Surrealism as a philosophy of art and life. Immigrating to New York City in 1972, he has been writing in English for the past 44 years. Oisteanu is the author of 10 books of poetry in English, 3 in Romanian, a book of short fiction and a book of essays: *The AVANT-GODS*. For 10 years, he was a columnist at New York Arts Magazine and for another 10 years an art critic for *Brooklyn Rail* and www.artnet.com. He was also a guest editor at *New Observation* magazine and *Hyperion* (Contramundum Press-2015), and a contributing writer for French, Spanish & Romanian art and literary magazines (*La Page Blanche*, *Art.es*, *Balkon*, *Dilema*, *Romania Literara*, etc.)

LARISSA SHMAILO edited the anthology *Twenty-first Century Russian Poetry* (Big Bridge Press) and translated *Victory over the Sun* for the Los Angeles County Museum of Art's celebrated reconstruction of the first Futurist opera; the libretto is now available from Cervená Barva Press. She is also a translator on the *Russian Bible* for the American Bible Society. Larissa's poetry collections are *#specialcharacters* (Unlikely Books), *In Paran* (BlazeVOX [books]), and the chapbooks *A Cure for Suicide* (Cervená Barva Press), and *Fib Sequence* (Argotist Ebooks). Her poetry CDs, *The No-Net World* and *Exorcism*, are available through iTunes and other digital distributors. Her novel, *Patient Women*, is now available from Amazon and BlazeVOX [books].

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No cover—please purchase two items from the menu or from the bar.

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