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Inquiries, Interview + Image Requests : Kristan Kennedy, Kristan@pica.org

“Clark Coolidge visits Portland for two engagements at the Portland Institute for Contemporary Art, a reading from his epic poem *A BOOK BEGINNING WHAT AND ENDING AWAY*, and a lecture about his friend and collaborator, ‘poet painter’ Philip Guston “

EVENT DETAILS:

**A BOOK BEGINNING WHAT AND ENDING AWAY: A Reading by Clark Coolidge
Feb 21, 7pm, FREE**

**The Painters Poet: A Talk on Philip Guston by Clark Coolidge
Feb 22, 7pm, FREE**

Both events will be held at PICA, 415 SW 10th Avenue, 3rd Floor, Portland, Ore.

“Words have a universe of qualities other than those of descriptive relation: Hardness, Density, Sound-Shape, Vector-Force, & Degrees of Transparency/Opacity.” - Clark Coolidge

Join us as we welcome distinguished poet and experimental jazz musician, Clark Coolidge, to Portland for two engagements. This program was organized by Kristan Kennedy, Visual Art Curator, PICA with Lisa Radon, editor of *EIGHTS*.

<http://www.8ights8.com/>

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**A BOOK BEGINNING WHAT AND ENDING AWAY
Feb 21, 7pm, PICA, FREE**

Coolidge reads from his most recent book, *A BOOK BEGINNING WHAT AND ENDING AWAY*, Published by Fence Books in the spring of 2013.

A BOOK BEGINNING WHAT AND ENDING AWAY is an epic, durational, multiform text composed from 1973 to 1981. Bridging the wild conceptual experimentalism of the 1960s with the freeform, devastating ‘point perspective lyric’ that remains Coolidge’s operative method today, *A BOOK BEGINNING WHAT AND ENDING AWAY* is an epic saga, and a rewriting of the nodes of grammar and meaning, exhibiting forceful transformation in every paragraph, every stanza, every turn.

Our evening with Coolidge will be opened with a reading by Brandon Downing, whose recent publications include, *The Shirt Weapon* (Germ Monographs, 2002), *Dark Brandon* (Faux Press, 2005), *Lake Antiquity* (Fence Books, 2009), and *Mellow Actions* (Fence, 2013)."

**The Painter's Poet: A Talk on Philip Guston
Feb 22, 7pm, PICA, FREE**

Experimental poet and jazz musician Clark Coolidge discusses Philip Guston’s passion for poetry and wordplay as evidenced by the painter’s extraordinary series of poem-pictures, which incorporate poems by William Corbett and Stanley Kunitz, among others, against the

415 SW 10th AVENUE
(3rd FLOOR)
PORTLAND OREGON 97205
503 242 1419
pica.org

backdrop of their friendship, collaborations and Guston's *Collected Writings, Lectures, and Conversations* (University of California, 2010), which Coolidge edited.

BIOGRAPHIES:

Clark Coolidge (b. 1939) is a poet and experimental jazz musician. He is the author of more than thirty books of poetry. Raised in Providence, Rhode Island, Coolidge, studied geology at Brown University (1956-58) before traveling to Los Angeles, Greenwich Village in New York City, and back to Providence. Among his collaborations are *Supernatural Overtones* (1990) with Ron Padgett, *On the Pumice of Morons* (1993) with Larry Fagin, and other pieces with Philip Guston, Bernadette Mayer, and Keith Waldrop.

Coolidge has taught at the Naropa Institute and the American Academy in Rome (1985-85). He has read his work locally and internationally in France, London, Scandinavia, and Russia. In 1993, he co-founded the MIX poetry and jazz group with David and Tina Metzger. After five decades of publishing poetry, Coolidge's work continues to evolve. He is the editor of *Philip Guston: Collected Writings, Lectures and Conversations* (University of California Press, 2010), and Fence Books published his last two books of poetry, *88 Sonnets* and *A Book Beginning What and Ending Away*. He lives in Petaluma, California.

Brandon Downing is a writer and visual artist originally from California. His books of poetry include *The Shirt Weapon* (Germ Monographs, 2002) and *Dark Brandon* (Faux Press, 2005), while a monograph of his literary collages from 1996-2008, *Lake Antiquity*, was released by Fence Books in late 2009. A long poem, *AT ME*, was released by Portland's Octopus Books in 2011, while his most recent collection, *Mellow Actions*, was published by Fence in 2013. In 2007 he released a feature-length collection of collaged video works, *Dark Brandon: Eternal Classics*, with a second volume forthcoming in 2014. www.brandondowning.org

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