



Emily
DICKINSON
Museum
THE HOMESTEAD &
THE EVERGREENS

NEWS RELEASE

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'THE ANGLE OF A LANDSCAPE' PORTRAYED WITH PAINT AND POETRY **Emily Dickinson Museum Sponsors Poetry Reading at University Gallery**

Amherst, MASS – On February 8 at 7:30 p.m. nationally acclaimed poets Nancy Willard and Lesle Lewis will showcase their work against the backdrop of *The Impossible Landscape* exhibition, which has run at the University Gallery of the University of Massachusetts Amherst's Fine Arts Center since November 29.

The event is jointly presented by the Emily Dickinson Museum, the University Gallery and the UMass Amherst English Department's Juniper Initiative. The program's title, 'The Angle of a Landscape,' refers to a poem Dickinson wrote in the summer of 1863, inspired by the view she saw looking out her bedroom window toward the center of Amherst.

During the poet's lifetime, Dickinson was acutely aware of the natural world around her. Her interest was revealed not only in the nearly 1,800 poems she wrote in her lifetime, but also in the highly artistic herbarium, or catalogue of pressed flowers, she kept and in the extensive gardening she did around the grounds of her home.

"Dickinson's poetry so vividly recalls the landscape she experienced that it seemed natural for our museum to collaborate with the University Gallery in offering contemporary poetic views of landscape," said Cindy Dickinson, director of interpretation and programming at the Emily Dickinson Museum.

The Gallery's exhibit, which has had a nearly three-month run, brings emerging landscape artists in a range of media to the forefront, challenging traditional expectations about what landscape imagery can be. *The Impossible Landscape* is guest curated by Mark Godfrey of the Slade School of Art in London.

Poets Nancy Willard and Lesle Lewis will pick up their pens rather than paint brushes and share readings from their own landscape-inspired work.

Nancy Willard is the author of numerous books of poetry including *In The Saltmarsh* and *Step Lightly: Poems for the Journey* and two novels, *Things Invisible to See* and *Sister Water*. She has been awarded grants from the National Endowment for the Arts in both fiction and poetry, and her book *A Visit to William Blake's Inn: Poems for Innocent and Experienced Travelers* was awarded the Newbery Medal. Her most recent children's books are *Cinderella's Dress* and *Sweep Dreams*. She teaches in the English department at Vassar College and lives in Poughkeepsie, New York.

Lesle Lewis is the author of *Landscapes I & II* and *Small Boat*, which won the 2002 Iowa Poetry Prize. Many of her poems have appeared in prestigious journals including: *Pleiades*, *American Letters and Commentary*, *Northern New England Review*, *Old Crow*, *Green Mountains Review*, *Barrow Street*, *Mudfish*, *Slope*, *LIT*, *Sentence*, and *Pool*. She teaches literature and writing at Landmark College in Vermont and lives in New Hampshire.

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A reception and book signing will follow the readings at the University Gallery. The event is free and open to the general public and parking near the University of Massachusetts Fine Arts Center will be free after 5 p.m.

The Emily Dickinson Museum: The Homestead and The Evergreens is dedicated to educating diverse audiences about the poet's life, family, creative work, times, and enduring relevance, and to preserving and interpreting the Homestead and The Evergreens as historical resources for the benefit of scholars and the general public. The Museum is owned by the Trustees of Amherst College, and has its own Board of Governors, which is charged with responsibility for raising its operating and capital funds. The Emily Dickinson Museum, along with the University Gallery, is a member of Museums10, a partnership of ten museums in the Pioneer Valley. The Museum opens for its 2007 season on March 3. For more information, visit www.emilydickinsonmuseum.org.

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