



For Immediate Release

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Exhibition of Rare Emily Dickinson Manuscripts On View at Poets House

*Exhibition of manuscripts, letters, fragments, rare books and archival materials
opens October 20, 2011 with a reception from 6:00-8:00 pm*

New York, NY, September 27, 2011 — Poets House celebrates the life and work of iconic poet Emily Dickinson in a groundbreaking exhibition of original manuscripts, rare books, and even a recipe from the Donald & Patricia Oresman Collection. With a smaller, concurrent exhibition of poet and artist Jen Bervin's Dickinson-based works, as well as a sequence of related public programs, this fall series will evoke the radical nature of Dickinson's life and work, opening new doors for Dickinson lovers and inspiring Dickinson neophytes. Both exhibitions are on view through January 28, 2012.

Emily Dickinson at Poets House: Manuscripts from the Donald & Patricia Oresman Collection

A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see a rare selection of original manuscripts, letters, fragments, rare books, archival materials and even a recipe for coconut cake belonging to Emily Dickinson. The Donald and Patricia Oresman Collection is one of the larger holdings of privately owned Dickinson manuscripts; most are on view for the first time to the public in this special exhibition curated by poet and visual artist Jen Bervin. The Oresmans are also devoted readers and art collectors, and have previously exhibited their collection of prints, drawings and photographs of people in the intimate act reading at Poets House.

Jen Bervin: "The wildest word we consign to language"

An exhibition of poet and visual artist Jen Bervin's large-scale sewn composites based on the variant marks in Emily Dickinson's manuscripts are exhibited for the first time in New York, along with new white-on-white works on Dickinson's fragments. Bervin's work brings together text, textile and archival research in a practice that encompasses artist books, poetry and large-scale art works. Her publications include *The Dickinson Composites* (Granary Books 2010), *The Desert*, and *Nets*. Her work is in over 30 collections including The J. Paul Getty Museum, the Walker Art Center and the Bibliothèque Nationale de France.

The opening reception for both of these exhibitions will be held Thursday, October 20 from 6:00–8:00pm, and coconut cake (Dickinson's recipe) and sherry will be served.

Related events:

Tuesday, November 15, 7:00pm

“Like the Wheels of Birds”: Emily Dickinson’s Itinerary of Escape, a talk by Marta Werner

Textual scholar Marta Werner explores Dickinson’s late artistic itinerary through an essay and visual presentation of the rarely seen, visually stunning late fragments, including Dickinson’s canceled writings, pinned texts and poems composed on envelopes. Marta Werner received her PhD from the State University of New York-Buffalo, is a member of the Emily Dickinson Editing Collective, and is the author of *Emily Dickinson’s Open Folios*, and editor of *Radical Scatters: Emily Dickinson’s Fragments and Related Texts, 1870-1886*. \$10, \$7 for students and seniors, free to Poets House Members.

Saturday, December 3 & Saturday, December 10, 2:00–4:00pm

Passwords: A Seminar with Jen Bervin on Emily Dickinson

Poet and artist Jen Bervin leads a two-part seminar on Emily Dickinson’s poems and several of the textual issues associated with her work. Each session: \$10, \$7 for students and seniors, free to Poets House members.

Poets House is a national poetry library and literary center that invites poets and the public to step into the living tradition of poetry. Through its poetry resources and literary events Poets House documents the wealth and diversity of modern poetry and stimulates public dialogue on issues of poetry in culture. In the summer of 2009, Poets House moved to its permanent home at 10 River Terrace in Battery Park City and opened to the public on September 25, 2009. Now in its new home on the banks of the Hudson River, Poets House is brimming with readers, writers, children’s class trips and program audiences. For more information about these events and Poets House in general, visit www.poetshouse.org, and join us on Facebook and Twitter.

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