

Christine Joyce

From: Marcia Rich
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 11:43 AM
To: Manager Department
Subject: request for funds from Georgia Whitney Trust
Attachments: Whitney BoS.doc; 2014 Whitney Fund Approval.doc; mary ruefle bio.docx

For the Selectmen's consideration; in past years, this has gone on the consent agenda.

Regards,
Marcia

Marcia Rich, Treasurer
Robert Creeley Foundation, Inc.



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March 19, 2014

Board of Selectmen

Acton Town Hall

Members of the Board:

The Robert Creeley Foundation, Inc. requests the approval of the Board of Selectmen to use \$1000 from the Georgia Whitney Memorial Fund to help finance the 2014 Robert Creeley Award and associated Helen Creeley Student Poetry Prize. The Whitney Fund was established to support events that enrich the high school students and adults of Acton; it has a current expendable balance of \$23,064.

The selection committee of the Foundation has chosen Mary Ruefle as the 14th winner of the Robert Creeley Award. Ms. Ruefle is the recipient of numerous honors, including an Award in Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the Poetry Society of America's William Carlos Williams Book Award, a Guggenheim fellowship, the Iowa Book Prize, a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship, a Whiting Award, and Frost Place and Lannan Foundation residencies. She lives in Bennington, Vermont, and teaches in the MFA program at Vermont College.

The poet Tony Hoagland has said about Ruefle's poems, "Her work combines the spiritual desperation of Dickinson with the rhetorical virtuosity of Wallace Stevens. The result (for those with ears to hear) is a poetry at once ornate and intense; linguistically marvelous, yes, but also as visceral as anything you are likely to encounter."

Ms. Ruefle will read in the R. J. Grey auditorium the evening of April 16 and visit the high school the next day to read to students and field questions about writing and the life of a writer.

Creeley Award events continue to grow in scope and popularity, with hundreds of people attending each event. This year the Helen Creeley Student Poetry Prize competition drew 44 responses from 23 public and private high schools across the state.

We hope the Board will agree that this program is of great value and approve expending \$1000 from the Georgia Whitney Fund.

Sincerely,

Marcia Rich, Treasurer
Robert Creeley Foundation, Inc.

Attachments: Biography of Mary Ruefle; Georgia Whitney Fund Approval Form



Photo: Michelle Eikenbary

MARY RUEFLE

Mary Ruefle was born outside of Pittsburgh, and spent her early life traveling the U.S. and Europe with her military family. She graduated from Bennington College in 1974 with a degree in Literature.

She has published many books of poetry, including, *Selected Poems*; *A Little White Shadow*, an art book of "erasures," a variation on found poetry; *Tristimania*; *Among the Musk Ox People*; *Apparition Hill*; *Post Meridian*; *Cold Pluto*; *The Adamant*; *Life Without Speaking*, and *Memling's Veil*. She is also the author of a book of prose, *The Most of It*, and a comic book, *Go Home and Go To Bed*.

She has been widely published in magazines and journals including *The American Poetry Review*, *Verse Daily*, *The Believer*, *Harper's Magazine*, and *The Kenyon Review*, and in anthologies including *Best American Poetry*, *Great American Prose Poems* (2003), *American Alphabets: 25 Contemporary Poets* (2006), and *The Next American Essay* (2002).

Reviewing *Post Meridian*, *Boston Review* critic Lisa Beskin observed, "Like John Ashbery and James Tate, Mary Ruefle investigates the multiplicities and frailties of being with an associative inventiveness and a lightness of touch; the purposefulness of her enquiry never eclipses the remarkable beauty of her work."

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