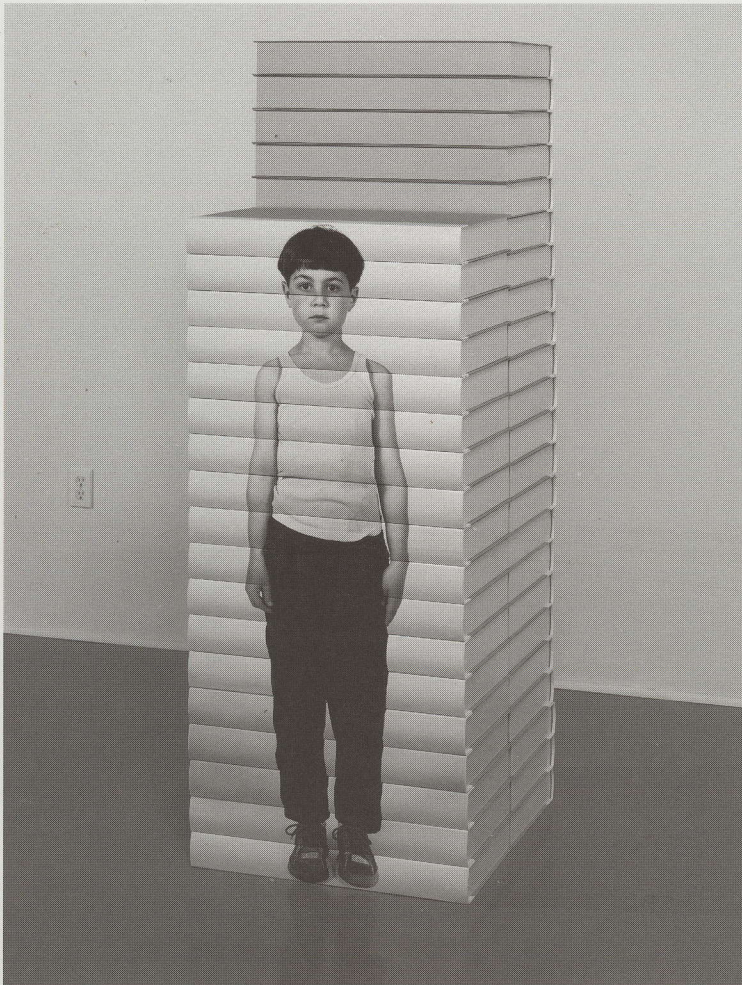


24th Annual

International Festival of Authors

October 22 to November 1, 2003



Tickets & Information: 416-973-4000

www.readings.org

Virginie Despentes (France)

Virginie Despentes provokes controversy. She is the author of a number of novels and short story collections including *Les Chiennes Savantes* ("Witty Sluts" or "Highbrow Bitches"), *Mordre au Travers* ("Bite Through") and *Baise-Moi* ("Rape Me"). Despentes will be reading from *Baise-Moi*, her recently translated pornographic death trip of a novel, which she asserts was written "to reclaim women's rights over their true sexuality, to seize it back from the male gaze. It's always men who have a problem with a woman's sex: that's their problem, not ours." This book is the basis for a hit underground film which was banned in France.

Reading: Thursday, October 23 at 8 p.m. - Brigantine Room with Tama Janowitz & Kaori Ekuni

Interview: Friday, October 24 at 7 p.m. - Studio Theatre with Sasha

Patricia Duncker (U.K.)

Patricia Duncker "is a mistress of suspense . . . a writer of fascinating versatility" (*Independent*). In *Seven Tales of Sex and Death*, the author provokes the reader to delve into the cliches of sexuality and violence, then take a new look at them in new light. "This collection of stories confirms Patricia Duncker as one of Britain's leading fiction writers" (*Financial Times*). Duncker is the author of three novels including *Hallucinating Foucault*, *James Miranda Barra* and *The Deadly Space Between*. She is professor of Creative Writing at the University of East Anglia.

Reading: Sunday, October 26 at 8 p.m. - Brigantine Room with Mary Woronov & Juli Zeh

Interview: Saturday, October 25 at 7 p.m. - Studio Theatre with Camilla Gibb



Patricia Duncker

Helen Dunmore (U.K.)

Helen Dunmore was awarded the first Orange Prize for Fiction in 1996 for her novel *A Spell of Winter*. Since then, her success has continued with *Talking to the Dead*, *With Your Crooked Heart*, *Your Blue-Eyed Boy*, *Ice Cream* and *The Siege*, which is set against the backdrop of the siege of Leningrad by the Germans in 1941 and "whose every observation is so sharp the words almost hurt" (*Publishers Weekly*). Dunmore's new novel is *Mourning Ruby*. She has also written a number of poetry collections and several books for children, including *Secrets*, which won the Signal Poetry Award, and the novels *Brother, Brother, Sister, Sister* and *The Zillah Rebellion*.

Reading: Wednesday, October 29 at 8 p.m. - Premiere Dance Theatre with Frances Itani & Monique Proulx

Interview: Friday, October 31 at 7 p.m. - Lakeside Terrace with Rosemary Sullivan

Kaori Ekuni (Japan)

Kaori Ekuni shot to the forefront of young female writers in Japan with *Twinkle Twinkle*, a novel which went on to sell 500,000 copies and win the prestigious Lady Murasaki Literary Award. A savvy novel about the strange marriage of a gay man and an unstable, alcoholic woman, *Twinkle Twinkle* takes an entirely fresh look at city life, commodity culture, marriage, forgiveness, and acceptance. *Twinkle Twinkle* is the first of Ekuni's books to be translated into English and this book has also been made into a film.

Reading: Thursday, October 23 at 8 p.m. - Brigantine Room with Virginie Despentes & Tama Janowitz

Interview: Thursday, October 23 at 7 p.m. - Studio Theatre with Rui Umezawa