Xavier University of Louisiana’s Read Today, Lead Tomorrow invite you to a Poetry Reading by

John Hoppenthaler

Thursday, March 12, 2015, 7:00 P.M. at Convocation Annex Rm. 111

Domestic Garden

A ghost has disarranged these roses lining the walkway. Some greenhouse jokester must have switched

Jackson & Perkins packaging—Heaven On Earth for Change of Heart, Black

Magic with Beloved. I’ll name them rancor lilies in your absence, though I don’t hate you, & they’re not lilies,

& you aren’t really gone, except in the way presence sometimes contradicts itself.

Should they grow on me—fugitive varietals I never thought to plant—will they lure your bouquet any closer, spirit

away weeds I’ll name neglect, aphids who’ll stay aphids, sucking at the stalk


John Hoppenthaler’s books of poetry are Lives of Water (2003), Anticipate the Coming Reservoir (2008), and Domestic Garden (2015), all with Carnegie Mellon University Press. With Kazim Ali, he has co-edited a volume of essays and interviews on the poetry of Jean Valentine, This-World Company—Jean Valentine (U Michigan P, 2012). His poetry appears widely in journals, anthologies, and textbooks. For the cultural journal Connotation Press: An Online Artifact, he edits “A Poetry Congeries. A longtime personal assistant to Nobel Laureate, Toni Morrison, he is currently an Associate Professor of Creative Writing and Literature at East Carolina University.

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This event was funded by Read Today, Lead Tomorrow. For more information please contact Dr. Biljana D. Obradović at (504) 520-5155 or bobradov@xula.edu