

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

All events take place on Tuesdays, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.
at 111 Minna Gallery, Minna St. at 2nd St. in downtown San Francisco

October 6, 2009: Natasha Wimmer on Roberto Bolaño
Latin America's Newest Superstar

November 10, 2009: Breon Mitchell on Günter Grass
Retranslating a Contemporary Masterpiece

February 9, 2010: Susan Bernofsky on Robert Walser
Rediscovering a Forgotten Genius

March 9: Alison Anderson on JMG Le Clézio and Muriel Barbery
The Translator as Overachiever:
A Nobel Winner and a Runaway Bestseller

April 13: Chana Bloch and Chana Kronfeld on Dahlia Ravikovich
Israel's Tormented, Beautiful National Poet

May 11: Marlon Hom on Angel Island Detention Poems
Saving Immigrant Poetry from the Bulldozers

June 8: Bernardo Atxaga on Bernardo Atxaga
From a Suppressed Language to International Renown

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

111 Minna Gallery

Hotel Rex featuring Cafe Andrée

Poets & Writers through a grant from The James Irvine Foundation



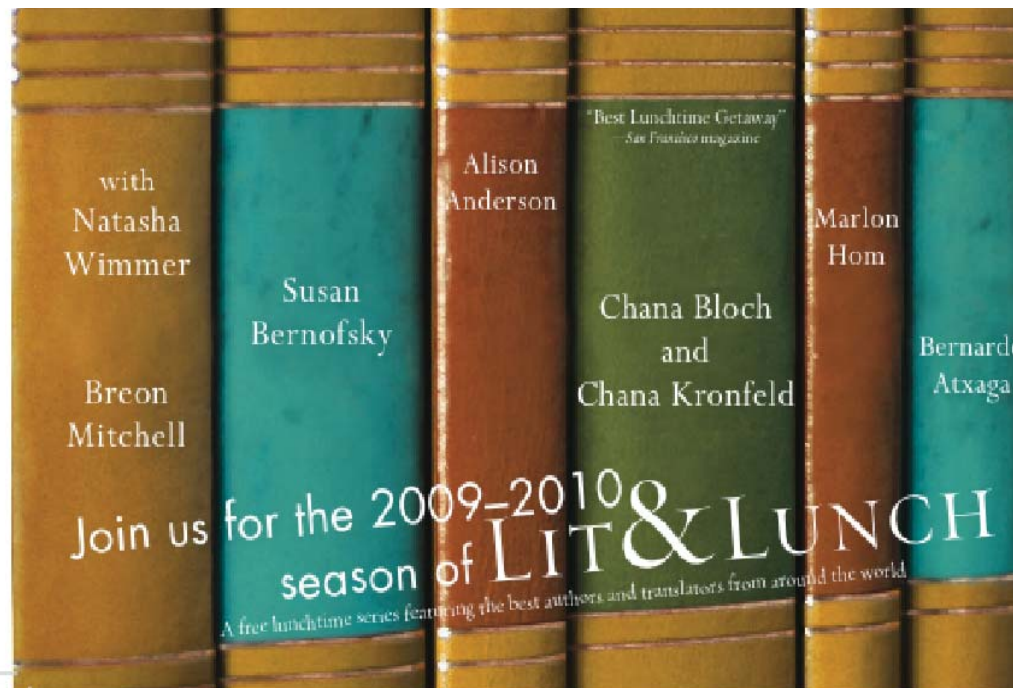
Lit&Lunch is a program of the **Center for the Art of Translation**, a non-profit organization that promotes international literature and translation through programs in the arts, education, and community outreach. Lit&Lunch plays a vital role in the **Center's** overall mission by giving writers from around the world the opportunity to share their work with a larger audience, and English-speaking readers a chance to discover them.



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2009-2010 SEASON
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111 Minna Gallery
Downtown San Francisco

WELCOME TO LIT&LUNCH!

San Francisco's first and only bilingual reading series

OCTOBER 6: Natasha Wimmer on Roberto Bolaño

After translating two bestselling novels by acclaimed Latin American author Roberto Bolaño, Natasha Wimmer talks about her process. A longtime translator of Latin American writers like Mario Vargas Llosa, Wimmer found herself handling the translation assignment of a lifetime. As *New York Magazine* put it, "Any reader currently having orgasms over Roberto Bolaño novels in English should throw a mental bouquet to Natasha Wimmer."

NOVEMBER 10: Breon Mitchell on Günter Grass

What's it like to retranslate a classic work of literature, especially when you revere the original translation? Why even do a second translation of a classic work? These are questions lauded translator Breon Mitchell faced when he was asked to do the re-translation of Günter Grass's Cold War classic *The Tin Drum*. He shares the secrets of how and why he did it, as well as the details of Grass's unique week-long translators' party in Danzig, where the book is primarily set.

FEBRUARY 9: Susan Bernofsky on Robert Walser

Although Kafka revered him and he is widely celebrated in Europe, Robert Walser only recently began attracting readers in the United States. After being featured in publications like *The New Yorker* over the past few years, this literary master has developed a devoted following among American readers. Translator Susan Bernofsky talks about rediscovering a forgotten genius, as well as the ins and outs of translating Walser's singular prose.

MARCH 9: Alison Anderson on JMG Le Clézio and Muriel Barbery

Literary translation is often a job with little reknown and few financial rewards, but translator Alison Anderson managed to strike it big twice in 2008: the French author JMG Le Clézio, whose novels Anderson has translated, received the Nobel Prize for

2009–2010 SEASON

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literature, and Muriel Barbery's novel *Elegance of the Hedgehog* became a national best-seller. Anderson talks about the pleasures and the pains of becoming a hot commodity and the books behind these literary celebrities.

APRIL 13: Chana Bloch and Chana Kronfeld on Dahlia Ravikovitch

Dahlia Ravikovich was more than one of Israel's most celebrated poets: she was also an outspoken activist who once aided Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish when he was under house arrest. Translators Chana Bloch and Chana Kronfeld talk about this enigmatic figure, the difficulties of translating from Hebrew, and the challenges that arise when two translators work together on a single book. They also discuss the unique pleasures of dual translation: as Bloch has said, "Working with Chana Kronfeld has been one of the greatest pleasures of my life."

MAY 11: Marlon Hom on Angel Island Detention Poems

In the early 20th century, thousands of Chinese immigrants to the United States were detained on Angel Island. Many of them carved poetry into the wooden walls of the detention center, and the poetry remained until the 1970s when the center was scheduled for demolition. Marlon Hom talks about these unique glimpses into the heart of the immigrant experience and how they were ultimately saved so that future generations of Americans would be able to see, firsthand, this chapter of our past.

JUNE 8: Bernardo Atxaga on Bernardo Atxaga

Basque author Bernardo Atxaga began writing in the 1970s when Spain was under the rule of the dictator Francisco Franco. The language he wrote in, Euskera, was forbidden by the Spanish government. Now widely recognized as the literary standard bearer of Basque culture, Atxaga has become, according to *The Guardian*, "Basque's strongest literary voice." He talks about his early experiences with writing in a suppressed language, as well as his position as an author between Spanish and Basque cultures, one that often must confront the Basque separatist movement.

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