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The Center for Contemporary Arts announces a new poetry series: **Vox Performa**

The Center for Contemporary Arts in Santa Fe announces the start, on **Thursday, August 16th at 7pm**, of their new monthly poetry series '**Vox Performa**'. The CCA has a long tradition of showcasing cutting edge poets and writers, such as Robert Creeley, Laurie Anderson, Amiri Baraka, and Ishmael Reed. **Vox Performa** aims to enhance CCA's Language Arts profile.

The **Vox Performa** series emphasizes poets working in performance, many of whom expand the borders of poetry by working in collaboration with other artists in different disciplines - music, film, video, dance and visual art. And, according to the mission of CCA - to present multi and inter disciplinary work - CCA will present not only the poets, but also the films they have made, and visual art they have collaborated on.

In addition to performing, the poets will be hosting writing and performance workshops. This is a rare and precious opportunity for neophyte or seasoned poets and literati to take a workshop and expand their vision of poetry!

August's line up includes two stellar poets, rooted in the performance medium - New Yorkers **Bob Holman** and **Patricia Smith**. Their performance will be on **Thursday, August 16th at 7pm** in CCA's **Moving Image Lab**. '**A Different Kind of Workshop**' with **Bob Holman** will take place on **Friday August 17th 1 - 5pm**, and **Patricia Smith's 'Mining the Past'** will take place **Saturday, August 18th 10 - 1pm**, both in CCA's **Digital Classroom**. **Bob Holman** will introduce two episodes from his groundbreaking PBS series, **The United States of Poetry** on **Friday August 17th at 7pm** in the **Moving Image Lab**.

Bob Holman, owner of New York's renowned Bowery Poetry Club, has been a central figure in the reemergence of poetry in our culture. Dubbed the 'Dean of the Scene' and 'Ringmaster of the Spoken Word', Bob produced the sensational **United States of Poetry** for PBS, and has won three Emmys for his **Poetry Spots** for WNYC-TV. He co-created 'the world's first' poetry record label, **Mouth Almighty/Mercury Records** and currently curates the biennial **People's Poetry Gathering** in New York City where he focuses on the poetry of endangered languages. Bob's latest collection of poems, **A Couple of Ways of Doing Something**, is an art book published in 2003 by Art of This Century/Pace Editions, and was first exhibited at the Peggy Guggenheim Museum during the Venice Biennale. His selected works, **The Collect Call of the Wild** was proclaimed 'the first poetic drop-kick into the new millennium' by Next magazine and 'Impressive (to say the least)' by Robert Creeley. He co-edited **Aloud! Voices from the Nuyorican Poets Café** winner of the American Book Award, having helped reopen the Cafe in 1989, where he ran the infamous Poetry Slams through 1996. Needle-drop wizard Hal Willner produced Bob's first CD, **In With The Out Crowd**. Backed by Chris Spedding, Wayne Kramer, and Bobby Neuwirth, the album moves from rock to country to ballad, shot through with urgent humor and what can only be called, 'poetry.' Lou Reed says it is "an astonishing achievement."

Patricia Smith is a four-time national individual champion of the notorious and wildly popular National Poetry Slam, an energized competition where poets are judged on the content and performance of their work. No one else has won the title more than twice. Recognized as one of the world's most formidable performers, she was featured in the nationally released film 'Slamnation,' and appeared on the award-winning HBO series 'Def Poetry Jam.' Patricia has read her work at venues round the world, including the Poets Stage in Stockholm, and Rotterdam's Poetry International Festival. In the U.S., she has performed at Carnegie Hall, Bumbershoot, the inaugural Palm Beach Poetry Festival, and St. Mark's Poetry Project. She has also collaborated musically with Philip Pemberton and the blues band Bop Thunderous, and is occasionally a vocalist with the stellar improvisational jazz group, Bill Cole's Untempered Ensemble. A short film of Patricia performing the poem 'Undertaker' won awards at the Sundance and San Francisco Film Festivals and earned a prestigious Cable Ace Award as part of the Lifetime Network's first annual Women's Film Festival. Coffee House Press released her latest book, Teahouse of the Almighty, this year. Patricia was recently inducted into the International Literary Hall of Fame for Writers of African Descent.

About The Center for Contemporary Arts (CCA)

The Center for Contemporary Arts (CCA) is a community-based nonprofit arts organization presenting exemplary programming in visual arts, performing arts, cinema and arts education for youth and adults. Dedicated to exposing multi- and interdisciplinary contemporary art, CCA provides emerging and established artists with opportunities to explore new ideas and take creative risks. CCA's Cinematheque is the community's #1 venue for alternative film, and is the home to numerous film series and festivals, including The African Effect and Native Cinema Showcase. The newly opened Digital Media Lab will provide access to, and use of, media technology to improve media literacy and to support the professional development of media artists in our region. Serving more than 70,000 visitors annually, CCA has introduced the arts of our time as a vital element in the region's cultural dialogue for nearly 30 years.

What:	Vox Performa
When:	Thursday August 16th, 7pm
Where:	CCA's Moving Image Lab, 1050 Old Pecos Trail, Santa Fe
How Much:	\$10 CCA members/\$15 non members
More Info:	Including info on workshops and the United States of Poetry at www.ccasantafe.org/language_arts.htm or through Jill Battson 505 0982 1338 x 20, jill@ccasantafe.org.