

CB1 Poetry

Duncan Forbes Dave Swann

Tuesday 13 January 2009
Michaelhouse, Trinity Street, 8pm

Duncan Forbes has published five collections, most recently *Vision Mixer* (2006), and his *Selected* is due from Enitharmon in 2009. He has been widely published and broadcast in journals, anthologies and UK and US radio, and was included in Faber's *Poetry Introduction 5*. A lecturer on Literature and History of Art, he has won a Gregory Award and the TLS/Blackwell Prize. **Dave Swann** is a widely published poet and short story writer. Winner of the Pitshanger Poetry Competition and the 2003 Bedford Competition, and with five successes in the Bridport, he brings the haunting power of the North to his work, the 'raw and beautiful stuff of everyday life' (Alison McLeod). **Doors open 7:30pm, £5/£3 concessions.**

'Wise, witty and sophisticated ... Duncan Forbes writes civilised poetry in a civilised way' – Ambit

'Duncan Forbes is a real discovery' – Vernon Scannell

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Duncan Forbes

Duncan Forbes read English at Oxford and is now Head of English at Wycombe Abbey School. His poems have appeared in the *Observer*, *Poetry Review*, *Spectator* and *Times Literary Supplement*, and have won him a Gregory Award. His first collection, *August Autumn*, was published by Secker & Warburg in 1984 and he won 1st Prize in the TLS / Blackwells Poetry Competition in 1998. He is the author of five collections of poems, the most recent being *Voice Mail* (2002) and *Vision Mixer* (2006). His *Selected Poems* are due to be published by Enitharmon in 2009.

OLD MASTER

God took up painting again.
It was more difficult than ever to create a masterpiece
and where should the oldest of masters begin
now that there was also the problem of belatedness,
as well as the new techniques and the critics?
Painting is Dead. God is Dead. They said, they said.
Well, he would prove them wrong himself.
Look, look around at my installations,
the kinetic verve of my constellations,
the videos of my action paintings,
the fluid sculptures in the clouds
and watercolours on every ocean,
but all the self-portraits shook their heads.
They wanted to be the gods instead.



Dave Swann

Dave's short stories and poems have been widely published. His poem 'Bunker' was awarded first prize by Mimi Kalvhati in the Pitshanger Open Poetry Competition and two poems were awarded Joint First Prize in The 2003 Bedford Competition by Mario Petrucci. The opening stanzas from the *Fire Beneath* illustrate the haunting power the North has in his imagination:

'Whatever it was he was running from
it drew us – though our mothers sensed it
in the dark tinder of his hair, in the narrows
of his face, and called him The Boy Who Looks
Round Corners, warning us not to follow him
out of bounds over the ocean of the moors'

Alison McLeod, author of "The Wave Theory of Angels" claims that "He brings the landscapes and voices of the North to life with an energy that catapults the characters into the universal...irresistible comedy. The raw and beautiful stuff of everyday life"

Just recently, David Swann celebrated his fifth success at the Bridport Poetry Prize with 'The Path'. His forthcoming book, 'The Privilege of Rain' (Waterloo Press, 2009), a collection of poems about life in prison, is expected out early in the New Year.