

Current Issues

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Lecture Series | Summer Term 2015

**NORTH
AMERICAN
STUDIES
PROGRAM**

Ellen Hinsey

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DAAD Artists-in-Berlin Program



“What Poetry Knows: Tyranny, Freedom and the Mystery of Art”

Tuesday, May 12, 2015 | 6:00–8:00 pm
Room A, IAAK, Regina-Pacis-Weg 5

In a globalized world, progressively dominated by technology and the sciences, what can poetry contribute to knowledge? Unexpectedly poetry, one of the most archaic forms of human inquiry and expression, is unique in its ability to affirm human intellectual endeavor, and as such is a critical meta-science. Further, as has long been documented, the writing and reading of poetry has been viewed as a dangerous pursuit, feared in times past and present by tyrants who seek complete autocratic control. Could it be that – contrary to received knowledge – poetry’s non-technological and truth-seeking art contains tools that are of utmost importance for our survival?

Ellen Hinsey is the author of numerous books of poetry, prose and literary translation. Her most recent collection of poetry, *Update on the Descent* (2009), which draws on her experience at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in The Hague, was a National Poetry Series finalist. She is the international correspondent for *The New England Review* and has published work in *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *The Irish Times*, *Die Welt*, *Akzente*, *The Paris Review*, and *Poetry International*. She has been the recipient of a Lannan Foundation Award and is a former fellow of the American Academy in Berlin. She currently teaches at Skidmore College in Paris and is a 2015 DAAD Berliner Künstlerprogramm fellow. Her collected essays on democracy in Central and Eastern Europe are forthcoming in a volume called *Mastering the Past*.

