

The Web

MP: Your website does a great deal more than present your poems, reviews, novels, achievements, and musical endeavors—it is an education in art itself, providing links to interviews, books, and film clips of the work of other writers and artists as well as your own. It promotes conversation across the multilayered spectrum of the arts. In your experience, has the Internet enhanced, saturated, or diminished the uniqueness, in any way, of the art of poetry?

AY: I don't care what anyone says, the internet has been poetry-friendly. At one point, Google let it be known that one of the most frequent entries in its search engine was simply the word Poetry.

MP: You stated in a previous interview that a writer must remember he/she is only competing with him/herself. This statement provides great relief for those who become overwhelmed with the amount of online and in-print literary journals out there, and the increase in MFA programs, which produce many thousands of new writers in search of publication each year. To some it may seem futile to add to the unwieldy body of work already online and in the bookstores.

AY: Just work away, I say. Your stuff will find a way to its waiting audiences. When I pick up an old-fashioned poetry or comedy CD and read a blurb that says "one million hits on YouTube," I know I'm on to something Sony or Random House overlooked.

MP: What could you say to new or upcoming writers, young and old, who believe they have a unique voice and story to tell, but perhaps question the odds of their work ever getting recognized due, in part, to the aforementioned abundance?

AY: I say you have no other choice but to brave your new world, children. Writers today enjoy far more outlets and avenues to air their work and presentation than limited print access permitted.

Note: *In memory of Morton Marcus (1936-2009)* appears in the new chapbook, *Seven Poems for Morton Marcus*, a limited edition publication on the occasion of the Sixth Annual Morton Marcus Memorial Poetry Reading (November, 2016). It includes poems by California poets Tom Meschery, Jack Marshall, Ronnie Hess, Joe Stroud, and David Sullivan.

Maggie Paul is the author of *Borrowed World*, a collection of poems published by Hummingbird Press, and the chapbook *Stones from the Basket of Others* (Black Dirt Press). Her work has appeared in *Rattle*, *Poetry Miscellany*, the *Drexel University Journal*, *Porter Gulch Review*, and *phren-Z*. She earned an MA at Tufts University and her MFA at Vermont College. Currently Maggie teaches writing at Cabrillo College and works as an independent educational consultant for college-bound students. She lives in Santa Cruz.

RALPH JOACHIM

Emerging from Chaos
(stage two of the creation series), 2015
Acrylic on Canvas, 48 x 120 in



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