

SELECT READINGS



FRIDAY, 15 OCTOBER
NOON
HBL AUDITORIUM



Tomaz Šalamun

POET

Tomaz Šalamun (pronounced Toh-MAH-sh SAH-la-mahn) attracted critical notice with his first collection, *Poker*, which was published when he was twenty-five. Considered one of the foremost figures of the Eastern European poetical avant-garde, Šalamun is revered by many American poets for his unique surrealistic style. His books have been translated in nineteen languages and nine of his thirty-seven books of poetry have been published in English. His *There's the Hand and There's the Arid Chair* has recently been released, and *Blue Tower* is due out in 2010. Other English volumes are *Woods and Chalices* (2008), the *Book for My Brother* (2006), *Row* (2006), and *Poker* (2003, 2008). Šalamun's first visit to the U.S. was in July 1970, when he was invited to exhibit his work at the MOMA in the famous *Information Show*. In 1964, as editor of a literary magazine *Perspektive*, he was threatened to be jailed for twelve years, but due to fast world media reaction, he was released before the process started. His many prizes include the Preseren Prize, the Jenko Prize, a

Pushcart Prize, the European Prize for Poetry in 2007, and 2009's "The Golden Wreath" from Struga Poetry Evenings in Macedonia. He also received the 2003 Altamarea prize in Trieste, Italy, and the Festival Prize at Costanza, Romania in 2004. A member of the Slovenian Academy of Science and Art, he occasionally teaches in the U.S., where he has been a Fulbright Fellow at Columbia University, a member of International Writing Program at Iowa, and a Cultural Attaché at the Consulate General of Slovenia in New York. In spring 2008, he was appointed as Visiting Professor in Creative Writing and Distinguished Writer in Residence by the University of Richmond. His next teaching position in the U.S. will be the spring semester 2011 at the Michener's Center MFA in Austin, Texas. Born in Zagreb in 1941, Šalamun received a degree in art history from the University of Ljubljana in Slovenia, where he now resides.

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