



512 West 19th Street New York, NY 10011
tel 212 255 5793 www.thekitchen.org

Press Contact: Blake Zidell & Associate
tel: 718.643.9050
fax: 718.643.9500
blake@blakezidell.com

For Immediate Release

The Kitchen Presents An Evening with Fence Books

Featuring new works by Martin Corless-Smith, Nick Demske and Jena Osman

New York, NY, November 22, 2010—On **Monday, November 22, The Kitchen** presents an evening celebrating the poetry publishing house **Fence Books'** fall season, showcasing work from two esteemed poets, **Martin Corless-Smith** and **Jena Osman**, and the upstart **Nick Demske**. Launching three new poetry titles—Osman's *The Network*, Corless-Smith's *English Fragments A Brief History of the Soul* and Demske's self-titled work—the night will feature dramatic interpretation, *sprechgesang* and interpretive dance. This event will take place at **7:00 P.M.** at The Kitchen (512 West 19th Street). Admission is free.

Martin Corless-Smith's *English Fragments A Brief History of the Soul* is the final volume in a trilogy of “alternate selves and alternate literary histories.” The previous parts, *Nota* and *Swallows*, were also published by Fence Books. Corless-Smith's other writing includes *Complete Travels* and *Of Piscator*, as well as several chapbooks. He was a Truman Capote Fellow at the Iowa Writers Workshop, and holds an MFA in Fine Arts and Printmaking from SMU and a Ph.D. in Creative Writing from the University at Utah. He is currently the director of the MFA Program in Creative Writing at Boise State University.

Jena Osman's *The Network* follows poet Cecilia Vicuña's procedural instruction to “enter words in order to see.” The book emerges at the intersection of conceptual and documentary poetics, as Osman applies an idiosyncratic methodology to etymological study, establishing “derivations and kinships” of phenomena, persons and peregrinations. Osman's other books include *An Essay in Asterisks* and *The Character*. For 12 years, she has edited the literary magazine *Chain* with Juliana Spahr, with whom she also edits the ChainLinks Book Series. Osman teaches in the graduate Creative Writing Program at Temple University.

Nick Demske's self-titled work won first place in the 2010 Fence Modern Poets Series competition. The book, written loosely in the form of a deconstructed sonnet, is about trying to make something good out of something inherently bad. The poems contemplate common social constructs like race, gender and sexuality. Demske works at the Racine Public Library in Wisconsin. His writing appears in several journals including: *Action Yes*, *Sawbuck*, *The Bathroom Magazine*, *Fact-Simile*, *Blazevox*, *Moria* and *Queef*. He curates the BONK! performance series in Racine and is editor of the online forum *boo: a journal of terrific things*.

About Fence Books

Fence Books, along with *Fence*, are programs of Fence Magazine, a nonprofit organization New York. Since 2007, Fence Magazine has been affiliated with the University at Albany and the New York State Writers Institute.

Founded in 1998, *Fence* is a biannual journal of poetry, fiction, art, and criticism. Its mission is to redefine the terms of accessibility by publishing challenging writing distinguished by idiosyncrasy

and intelligence rather than by allegiance with camps, schools, or cliques. Another part of their goal is to support writers who might otherwise have difficulty being recognized because their work does not answer to either the mainstream or to recognizable modes of experimentation.

Fence Books is an extension of that mission. Launched in 2001, Fence Books publishes poetry, fiction, and critical texts and anthologies, and prioritizes sustained support for its authors, many of whom come through their two book contests – the Motherwell Prize and the Fence Modern Poets Series – and then go on to publish second, third, fourth books.

Funding Credits

Literature programs at The Kitchen are made possible with generous support from the Axe-Houghton Foundation and with public funds from The National Endowment for the Arts, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency.



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE ARTS

A great nation
deserves great art.



NYSCA

New York State Council on the Arts



ABOUT THE KITCHEN

The Kitchen is one of New York City's oldest nonprofit performance and exhibition spaces, showing experimental work by innovative artists, both emerging and established. Programs range from dance, music, and theatrical performances to video and media arts exhibitions to literary events, film screenings, and artists' talks. Since its inception in 1971, The Kitchen has been a powerful force in shaping the cultural landscape of this country and has helped launch the careers of many artists who have gone on to worldwide prominence.

Box Office Information:

212.255.5793 ext. 11

Tue-Sat, 2-6pm

The Kitchen
512 West 19th Street
New York, NY 10011
www.thekitchen.org

#####