



ART IN LITERATURE THE MARY LYNN KOTZ AWARD

The Library of Virginia and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Announce the 2014 Art in Literature: Mary Lynn Kotz Award

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For Immediate Release

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The Library of Virginia and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts are pleased to announce the winner of the second annual Art in Literature: Mary Lynn Kotz Award. This unique award recognizes an outstanding book that demonstrates the highest literary merit as a creative or scholarly work on the theme of visual artists or art. An eligible book may be a work of fiction, nonfiction, poetry, or a museum catalog, published in English by an American publisher.

This year's finalists for the Art in Literature Award are: *Arts and Crafts Embroidery* by Laura Euler, *The Embrace: Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo* by Carolyn Kreiter Foronda, *The Melancholy Art* by Michael Ann Holly, *Labyrinths: The Art of the Maze* by Franco Maria Ricci, and *Balthus: Cats and Girls* by Sabine Rewald.

The independent panel of judges selected *The Embrace: Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo* by Carolyn Kreiter-Foronda as this year's award winner. Ms. Kreiter-Foronda will speak about her work and the art that inspired her and will be presented with the award on Friday, October 17, 2014, at the Pauley Center, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. To purchase tickets, visit <http://vmfa.museum/programs/adults/talks-lectures/>.

"This award recognizes the love affair between authors and the art that inspires them," said Sandra G. Treadway, Librarian of Virginia. "The visual artist and an acclaimed poet Carolyn Kreiter-Foronda's *The Embrace* embodies the almost mystical connection between the written word and art. *The Embrace* paints with words the unconventional passionate relationship of Rivera and Kahlo."



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"We are delighted to partner with the Library of Virginia on this innovative award that celebrates the best of new international writing on the fine arts and we are particularly pleased that it is named in honor of a great Virginian writer," said Alex Nyerges, Director, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts.

Carolyn Kreiter-Foronda served as the 2006–2008 Poet Laureate of the Commonwealth of Virginia. She holds a bachelor's degree from Mary Washington College, now the University of Mary Washington, and a masters of education, a masters of art, and a doctorate from George Mason University, where she received the institution's first doctorate. In 2007, both universities gave her the Alumna of the Year Award.

A lifelong educator and abstract painter, she has published six books of poetry and co-edited two poetry anthologies. Her poems have been nominated for six Pushcart Prizes and appear throughout the United States and abroad in magazines such as *Nimrod*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Mid- American Review*, *Hispanic Culture Review*, *El Quetzal*, *Poet Lore*, and *An Endless Skyway*, an anthology of poems by U.S. State Poets Laureate.

The Art in Literature Award is named in honor of author and journalist Mary Lynn Kotz, a longtime contributing editor for *ARTnews* magazine, who has built a career interviewing, researching, writing, and lecturing about art and artists—among them Georgia O'Keeffe and John Cage. Her critically acclaimed book *Rauschenberg/Art and Life* (Abrams) balances deft observations of craft with a biographer's chronicle of the American artist. Through her tireless service to cultural institutions and initiatives, including many in her beloved Virginia, Kotz has shown a lifelong commitment to making the arts a vital and illuminating presence in our society.

The Art in Literature Award presentation is one of many exciting events during the Library of Virginia's week-long Virginia Literary Festival. For a complete list of events and participants, see <http://www.literaryva.com/va-events/>.

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