

The Wolfe Institute

*The Ethyle R. Wolfe Institute for the Humanities,
in cooperation with the English Department, the MFA Fiction Program,
and the MFA Poetry Program
presents*

A Reading of Fiction and Poetry

Benjamin Anastas & Sharon Mesmer



Benjamin Anastas' first novel, *An Underachiever's Diary*, has been called the “funniest, most underappreciated book of the 1990s” and has just been re-released in paperback by Dial Press. His second novel, *The Faithful Narrative of a Pastor's Disappearance* (FSG) was a New York Times Notable Book, and his short fiction has been published in *The Paris Review*, *GQ*, *The Yale Review* and *Story*. He has been an editor at the literary magazine *Grand Street* and teaches writing at Columbia University and Purchase College. His articles, essays and reviews have appeared in *Bookforum*, the *New York Times Magazine*, *Men's Vogue* and *Granta*.

Sharon Mesmer is a 2008 Fulbright Senior Specialist candidate, recipient of two New York Foundation for the Arts poetry fellowships (1999 and 2007), as well as a 2009 Jerome Foundation/SASE mentoring grant (with poet Elisabeth Workman). Two poetry collections, *The Virgin Formica* (Hanging Loose) and *Annoying Diabetic Bitch* (Combo Books), came out in 2008. Other poetry collections include *Half Angel, Half Lunch* (Hard Press, 1998) and the chapbooks *Vertigo Seeks Affinities* (Belladonna Books, 2006) and *Crossing Second Avenue* (ABJ Books, Tokyo). Fiction collections are *Ma Vie à Yonago* (in French translation from Hachette Littératures, 2005) and *In Ordinary Time and The Empty Quarter* (Hanging Loose 2005 and 2000). She is a member of the flarf collective, and recently performed with fellow members at the Whitney Museum (in conjunction with the Jenny Holzer “Protect Protect” exhibition), and was featured along with the collective in the National Public Radio program “Studio 360 with Kurt Andersen.” For the past fourteen years she has taught undergraduate literature courses and fiction workshops, as well as graduate poetry seminars, at the New School in Manhattan. She's teaching MFA poetry tutorials at Brooklyn College this semester.

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

The Barker Room

Boylan Hall, Brooklyn College

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