

The Wolfe Institute

*The Ethyle R. Wolfe Institute for the Humanities,
in cooperation with the Department of English,
presents the series Poets on Poets*

Michael Graves on James Wright



Michael Graves is the author of *Adam and Cain* (Black Buzzard, 2006), *In Fragility* (Black Buzzard, 2011) and two chapbooks, *Illegal Border Crosser* (Cervana Barva, 2008) and *Outside St. Jude's* (R. E. M. Press, 1990). In 2004, he received a grant from the Ludwig Vogelstein Foundation. Thirteen of his poems appear in the *James Joyce Quarterly*. He has published scholarly, critical work on James Wright and organized a conference on Mr. Wright at Poets House in 2004.

James Wright (1927-1980) was frequently referred to as one of America's finest contemporary poets. He was admired by critics and fellow poets alike for his willingness and ability to experiment with language and style, as well as for his thematic concerns. *Above the River: The Complete Poems* appeared more than a decade after Wright's death. *New York Times* Book Review contributor J.D. McClatchy wrote, "Lucidity, precision, rhythmical poise, sentiment, intelligence and the rigors of a conscious craft that liberated the imagination—these were the poetic values [Wright] cherished, and they remain the keynotes of *Above the River*." Samuel Maio also praised Wright and his collected poetry in the *Bloomsbury Review*: "James Wright wasn't afraid to find out who he really was, no matter how frightening that self may have been. This is the essence of the pure, clear voice we encounter in his poems, and this is why James Wright endures."

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

2:15 to 3:30 p.m.

Penthouse

**Brooklyn College Student Center
Campus Road and East 27th Street**

For information: 718.951.5847 wolfeinstitute@brooklyn.cuny.edu **Twitter:** twitter.com/Wolfe_Institute