

# The Wolfe Institute

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

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## Rosamond King on Jayne Cortez



**Jayne Cortez** (1934-2012) was born in Fort Huachuca, Arizona, on May 10, 1934, grew up in California, and lived in New York City and Dakar, Senegal. She is the author of ten books of poems, including *On the Imperial Highway* and *Jazz Fan Looks Back* and performer of her poetry with music on nine recordings, several with the Firespitter band. Her voice has been celebrated for its political, surrealistic, and dynamic innovations in lyricism, and visceral sound. Her poems have been translated into many languages and widely published in anthologies, journals, and magazines. She was the recipient of several awards, including the Arts International, the National Endowment for the Arts, the International African Festival Award, the Langston Hughes Award, the American Book Award, the Bellagio Residency Award from the Rockefeller Foundation, and the Thelma McAndless Distinguished Professorship Award. Cortez was a Co-Founder, with Ama Ata Aidoo, of the Organization of Woman Writers of Africa, which for the last twenty years has organized the largest gatherings of creative women of African descent in the Yari Yari and Slave Routes series of conferences. <http://www.jaynecortez08.com/>

**Rosamond King**, Ph.D. is a creative and critical writer, performer, and artist. She was named a 2014 Franklin Furnace Fund Fellow and a 2013 Poets House Emerging Poet Fellow, and her poetry has been published in the chapbook *At My Belly and My Back* and in over two dozen journals and anthologies, including *Kindergarde: Experimental Poetry for Children* (Black Radish Books, 2013). King has performed around the world at festivals such as “Call and Response” (Ohio), AfiriPERFOMA (Zimbabwe), the SABLE Literary Festival (The Gambia) and El Encuentro (Montreal), as well as in New York venues such as the BAAD! Ass Women Festival, Dixon Place, the Bowery Poetry Club, and the Stonewall Inn. She is an assistant professor in the English Department of Brooklyn College (CUNY). Jayne Cortez was her friend and mentor. [www.rosamondking.com](http://www.rosamondking.com)

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**Wednesday, October 29, 2014  
11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.  
State Lounge, 5th Floor  
Brooklyn College Student Center  
Campus Road and East 27th Street**

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