



# BAINBRIDGE ISLAND MUSEUM OF ART

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Billy Collins joins “The Conversation of Art” in support of the Bainbridge Island Museum of Art’s Capital Campaign**

**BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, WA** - Bainbridge Island Museum of Art is pleased to announce a special weekend of events starting October 19-21, 2012 featuring one of the most widely read poets of our time, former U.S. Poet Laureate, Billy Collins.

"This art museum is growing out of the soil of the place that it is in, with artworks being picked local like vegetables, and rooting us to our culture," said Billy Collins, who was appointed U.S. Poet Laureate in 2001-2003. "I think this art museum is an incredible idea and a wonderful gift to everyone in the community."

### **Schedule of Activities:**

- **Friday, October 19th**, 7:00 p.m. *POETRY 180* Educator's Event at the Bainbridge Island Museum of Art. Collin's will share his *Poetry 180* program, designed to encourage students to hear or read a poem on each of the 180 days throughout the school year. The event is free for educators. Reserve seats via [www.biartmuseum.org](http://www.biartmuseum.org) or by calling 206.842.4451 (Seating is limited). Sponsored by Eagle Harbor Books Company.
- **Saturday, October 20th**, 6:30 p.m. *A Conversation with Billy Collins*. Guests will have the opportunity to experience a more intimate evening and reception with Billy Collins. Collins will be interviewed by KUOW reporter Marci Sillman at the event and will be available to sign books. Location: Islandwood on Bainbridge Island. Space is limited to 150 seats. Tickets \$150, purchase through [www.conversation-of-art.com/events](http://www.conversation-of-art.com/events) or call our partners at the Bainbridge Performing Arts (BPA) box office at 206.842.8569.

- **PHOTO OPPORTUNITY! Sunday, October 21st, 3:00-4:30 p.m.** *Billy Collins Joins the Conversation of Art* poetry reading and book signing at the Bainbridge Island High School Gym. The reading will include a preview selection of poetry from his new book *Aimless Love: Poems 2003-2013*, to be released spring 2013. Tickets starting at \$10; purchase through [www.conversation-of-art.com/events](http://www.conversation-of-art.com/events) or call our partners at the Bainbridge Performing Arts (BPA) box office: 206.842.8569

### **About Billy Collins**

Billy Collins is a Distinguished Professor of English at Lehman College of the City University of New York, as well as a Senior Distinguished Fellow of the Winter Park Institute at Rollins College. In June 2001, Billy Collins was appointed United States Poet Laureate 2001-2003. In January 2004, he was named New York State Poet Laureate 2004-06.

*The Conversation of Art* campaign: Launched in summer 2012 to encourage the community to start talking about art. “The conversation is about engaging the public and getting their feedback in terms of what art means to them in this local community and in the region. We are celebrating all the arts, literary as well as visual, and are grateful for Billy Collin’s contribution to this conversation,” says Greg Robinson, Executive Director.

### **About Bainbridge Island Museum of Art**

The art museum will be a community resource for quality arts education and lifelong learning; hosting gallery tours, artist talks, school group visits, panel discussions, videos, printed and digital documentation of art, and hands-on art activities. The museum is already partnering with local schools and other arts-interested groups to promote art education for people of all ages, interests, abilities, and skill levels. Through a prominent location, compelling exhibitions and programs, and community partnerships, the art museum will generate economic support for the entire region and become a gateway to the broader community. The art museum will serve as a cultural campus and collecting institution with exhibits and programs primarily focused on artists from the Kitsap and Olympic Peninsulas, and Puget Sound region.

**Join the conversation:**



[www.biartmuseum.org](http://www.biartmuseum.org)

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