

Moonstone Arts Center and Art Sanctuary Present *An Evening with Sonia Sanchez*

At 110A S. 13th Street, Philadelphia, 215-735-9600

www.moonstoneartscenter.org

Monday January 11, 5:30 – 6:30pm - Haiku Workshop for students grades 7 to 12

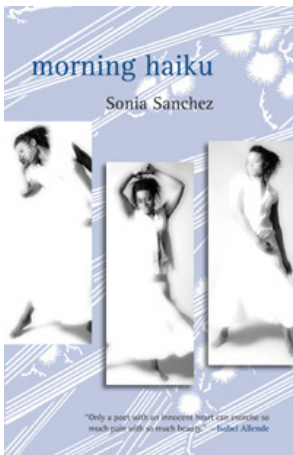
Haiku Remix: How Youth Write and Share their Own Haiku

Taught by Art Sanctuary's Lead Teaching Artist Ms. Trapeta Mayson

This workshop will explore the traditional forms of haiku and the ways this art form has been transformed by writers like Sonia Sanchez. Through a review of various forms of haiku and interactive writing exercises, participants will write their own form of haiku. For Students in grades 7-12, please bring Paper and Pen, workshop limited to 30 participants. To RSVP contact Arts & Education Program Administrator, Bianny Perez by phone at (215) 232-4485 or email at bperez@artsanctuary.org. Please RSVP by Friday, January 8, 2009 5:00PM.

Monday January 11, 7:00 – 8:00pm – Poetry Reading

Sonia Sanchez Reading from her new book *Morning Haiku* (\$19.95 Beacon)



This new volume by the much-loved poet Sonia Sanchez, her first in over a decade, is music to the ears: a collection of haiku that celebrates the gifts of life and mourns the deaths of revered African American figures in the worlds of music, literature, art, and activism. In her verses, we hear the sounds of Max Roach "exploding in the universe," the "blue hallelujahs" of the Philadelphia Murals, and the voice of Odetta "thundering out of the earth." Sanchez sings the praises of contemporaries whose poetic alchemy turns "words into gems": Maya Angelou, Richard Long, and Toni Morrison. And she pays homage to peace workers and civil rights activists from Rosa Parks and Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm to Brother Damu, founder of the National Black Environmental Justice Network. Often arranged in strings of twelve or more, the haiku flow one into the other in a steady song of commemoration. Sometimes deceptively simple, her lyrics hold a very powerful load of emotion and meaning. There are intimate verses here for family and friends, verses of profound loss and silence, of courage and resilience. Sanchez is innovative, composing haiku in new forms, including a section of moving two-line poems that reflect on the long wake of 9/11. In a brief and personal opening essay, the poet explains her deep appreciation for haiku as an art form. With its touching portraits and by turns uplifting and heartbreaking lyrics, *Morning Haiku* contains some of Sanchez's freshest, most poignant work.

"Sonia Sanchez is a lion in literature's forest. When she writes she roars, and when she sleeps other creatures walk gingerly." —**Maya Angelou**

"The poetry of Sonia Sanchez is full of power and yet always clean and uncluttered. It makes you wish you had thought those thoughts, felt those emotions, and, above all, expressed them so effortlessly and so well."

—**Chinua Achebe**

"Her songs of destruction and loss scrape the heart; her praise songs thunder and revitalize. We need these songs for our journey together into the next century."

—**Joy Harjo**



Monday January 11, 8pm – Moonstone Members Only

A Reception with Sonia Sanchez at Time Restaurant, 1316 Sansom Street, cash bar

Spend an informal hour with Sonia Sanchez after her reading, have a drink, your book autographed, and conversation with others who love poetry and Sonia. If you are not a member you can join at our website www.moonstoneartscenter.org or on site

Autographed books can be ordered for home delivery by calling 215-735-9600