

CRISTIN TIERNEY

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Tim Youd

Retyping Nelson Algren

Chicago Performance Series

June – August 2022

Supported by

The Arts Club of Chicago

Newberry Library

Phyllis' Musical Inn

Cristin Tierney Gallery is pleased to announce two new typewriting performances by Tim Youd in Chicago in partnership with the Newberry Library, The Arts Club of Chicago, and Phyllis' Musical Inn. During the summer, Youd will retype two novels by American author Nelson Algren: *Never Come Morning* and *The Man with the Golden Arm*. These will be the 75th and 76th performances from the artist's decade-long *100 Novels Project*. They continue Youd's project that began last

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summer with The Arts Club of Chicago when he retyped Sherwood Anderson's *Winesburg, Ohio* and Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle*.

Raised in Chicago, Nelson Algren (1909-1981) was known for his books about the city's grimy underworld and its dispossessed. The two Algren novels Youd will retype are set in Chicago's Polish community at the middle of the twentieth century, which centered on the intersection of Division Street with Ashland and Milwaukee Avenues. Chicago was then and remains now an important hub of the Polish diaspora, forming a fitting backdrop for Youd's performances.

From June 19 – July 1, Youd will retype *Never Come Morning*, Algren's second novel which follows an amateur Polish-American boxer who turns to a life of crime. The performance will take place in and around Phyllis' Musical Inn, a legendary bar and performance venue on Division Street where Algren was likely a regular. Several weeks later from July 26 through August 12, Youd will retype *The Man with the Golden Arm* at the Newberry Library. Later made into a film with Frank Sinatra, *The Man with the Golden Arm* is the author's best-known work about an aspiring drummer with a morphine addiction. Algren did research for the novel at the Newberry Library, and today the library maintains the Nelson Algren Papers, a selection of the author's typescripts and letters. During each performance, Youd will spend a couple of days typing in the garden at The Arts Club of Chicago.



Like Youd's previous *100 Novels* performances, both books will be retyped on the same make/model typewriters used by the author. Youd will use an Underwood Standard for *Never Come Morning* and a Remington 17 for *The Man with the Golden Arm*. When retyping, Youd types all the words of the novel onto one page (which is backed by a second sheet) by running it repeatedly through the typewriter. The words become illegible, and the accumulated text

becomes a rectangle of black ink inside the larger rectangle of the white page. Upon completion, Youd separates the two highly distressed pages and mounts them side-by-side in diptych form. This performance relic becomes a formal drawing, a representation of two pages of a book. The novel is present in its entirety, yet the words are completely obscured.

Tim Youd (b. 1967, Worcester, MA) is a performance and visual artist working in painting, sculpture, and video. To date, he has retyped 74 novels at various locations in the United States and Europe. Residencies at historic writer's homes have included William Faulkner's Rowan Oak with the University of Mississippi Art Museum (Oxford, MS), Flannery O'Connor's Andalusia with SCAD (Milledgeville and Savannah, GA), Virginia Woolf's Monk's House (Rodmell, Sussex) and at the National Willa Cather Center in Red Cloud, NE. His work has been the subject of numerous

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museum exhibitions at CAMSTL, The Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center at Vassar College, Hanes Art Gallery at Wake Forest University, The New Orleans Museum of Art, Monterey Museum of Art, Hemingway-Pfeffer Museum, Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, University of Mississippi Art Museum at Rowan Oak and the Lancaster Museum of Art and History. He has presented and performed his 100 Novels project at the Ackland Art Museum, Weatherspoon Art Museum, Art Omi, Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions (LACE) and LAXART, and retyped Joe Orton's Collected Plays at The Queen's Theatre with MOCA London. His studio is based in Los Angeles.

Founded in 2010, **Cristin Tierney Gallery** is a contemporary art gallery located on The Bowery with a deep commitment to the presentation, development and support of a roster of both established and emerging artists. Its program emphasizes artists engaged with critical theory and art history, with an emphasis on conceptual, video, and performance art. Education and audience engagement is central to our mission. Cristin Tierney Gallery is a member of the ADAA (Art Dealers Association of America).

The **Newberry** collection—some 1.6 million books, 600,000 maps, and 5 million manuscript pages—is a portal to more than six centuries of human history, from the Middle Ages to the present. They connect researchers and visitors with their collection in the Newberry's reading rooms, exhibition galleries, program spaces, classrooms, and online digital resources.

Since its founding in 1887, the Newberry has remained dedicated to deepening our collective understanding of ourselves and the world around us. As individuals engage with Newberry collections and staff, they discover stories that bridge the past and present and illuminate the human condition.

The Newberry's community of discovery is driven by a shared commitment to promoting research, inspiring learning, and using inquiry across the humanities as a tool to engage critically in a vibrant democratic society.

Since 1916, **The Arts Club of Chicago** has been a preeminent exhibitor of international art, a forum for established and emerging artists, and a celebrated venue for performers from around the world. For over 100 years, The Arts Club has opened its membership to artists and patrons of the arts, and its exhibitions to the public. At its inaugural meeting, the mission of the Club was defined as: "to encourage higher standards of art, maintain galleries for that purpose, and to promote the mutual acquaintance of art lovers and art workers."

The mission of The Club has since grown and expanded, and is now:

To encourage, foster, promote, and sponsor activities and presentations which would aim to increase public interest in the arts and related activities;

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To expand the artistic horizons of a public interested in the arts and related activities, which will include lectures, lecture/demonstrations, symposia, gallery talks, films, music, and dance presentations, and related educational programs designed to further these purposes;

To maintain a facility for the presentation of these activities and exhibitions;

To acquire by gift or purchase, and maintain a permanent collection of fine art, and to present temporary exhibitions of the fine arts in a gallery open to the public.

The Arts Club continues to uphold this mission, offering between three and four public exhibitions per year, a permanent collection including work by many modern and contemporary masters, and a diverse calendar of programming offered to its membership and guests.

Phyllis' Musical Inn is Chicago's historical alternative/punk rock underground birthplace. Phyllis' Musical Inn spawned Veruca Salt, catalyzed Wicker Park's 1990s creative class, and hosted My Morning Jacket's first Chicago show. An intimate outpost in a now-transformed landscape, Phyllis' Musical Inn provides alternative leisure to Wicker Park's gentrified classes, ubiquitous hipsters, and stubbornly entrenched artists, recording professionals, luthiers, musicians, and writers who feed on the area's persevering postindustrial vibe.

Performance Hours and Locations

Never Come Morning

Phyllis' Musical Inn | June 19-29, noon to 6:00 pm

The Arts Club of Chicago | June 30 – July 1, noon to 6:00 pm

The Man with the Golden Arm

Newberry Library | July 26 – August 12, Tuesday – Saturday, noon to 5:00 pm

Image

Tim Youd retyping Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle*. 388 pages typed on an Underwood No. 5. The Arts Club of Chicago and Union Stockyard Gate, Chicago, September 20 – October 8, 2021.

Photos by Sarah Elizabeth Larson for The Arts Club of Chicago.

Inquiries

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