

CRISTIN TIERNEY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Sarah Comegno, sarah@crisintierney.com



Tim Youd

Retyping Willa Cather

A Performance Series

April – May 2022

Supported by

Joslyn Art Museum

National Willa Cather Center

Willa Cather Archive

Cristin Tierney Gallery is pleased to announce a new series of performances by Tim Youd in partnership with Joslyn Art Museum, National Willa Cather Center and Willa Cather Archive in spring 2022. During the months of April and May, Youd will retype three novels by American author Willa Cather in Nebraska: *O Pioneers!*, *The Song of the Lark* and *My Ántonia*. These will be the 72nd, 73rd and 74th performances from the artist's *100 Novels Project*.

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Cather's *O Pioneers!*, *The Song of the Lark* and *My Ántonia* are some of the foremost literary landmarks of the American Great Plains. In 1883 at nine years old, Cather moved with her family to the farm community of Red Cloud, Nebraska. Her experiences and memories of her life there would form the backbone of these three novels, which she wrote years after leaving Nebraska for New York. Cather returned to Red Cloud regularly, and the town today is a tourism destination with restored historic buildings and landscapes preserved from Cather's childhood.

From April 1-8, Youd will retype *O Pioneers!*, Cather's fictional account of settlers in the Nebraska prairie, hosted by the Willa Cather Archive at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. From April 10-28 at the National Willa Cather Center in Red Cloud, Youd will retype the significantly longer novel *The Song of the Lark*, a semi-autobiographical story of a young woman who leaves her hometown behind for Chicago, New York City, and Europe. Finally, from May 1-10, Youd will retype Cather's best-known novel, *My Ántonia*, in Omaha in partnership with Joslyn Art Museum. This series of performances continue the artist's yearslong endurance performance, the *100 Novels Project*.

Like Youd's previous *100 Novels* performances, all three books will be retyped on the same make/model typewriter used by the author, and in a location related to the novel and/or author. 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 thus 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 71 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), and Virginia Woolf's Monk's House (Rodmell, Sussex). His work has been the subject of numerous 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.

Joslyn Art Museum showcases art from ancient times to the present. The Museum was a gift to the people of Omaha from Sarah Joslyn in memory of her husband, George, who made his fortune as president of the Western Newspaper Union. The Museum's original 1931 building is one of the finest examples of Art Deco architecture in the nation. The Walter and Suzanne Scott Pavilion, a

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58,000-square-foot addition built in 1994, was designed by renowned British architect Norman Foster as his first U.S. commission. The Museum features galleries, a 1,000-seat concert hall, fountain court, education technology gallery, lecture hall, classrooms, sculpture gardens, café, shop, and Art Works, an interactive space for art exploration. General admission to Joslyn Art Museum is free to all, always.

In October 2018, Joslyn announced Snøhetta has been selected to lead a physical and programmatic expansion that will be transformative for the Museum, the city of Omaha, and Nebraska. Construction began in July 2021 on the Museum's new 42,000-square-foot Rhonda and Howard Hawks Pavilion. Central to the addition are abundant light-filled galleries designed to meet the demands of and explore the possibilities of a growing permanent collection. Visitors will find new community spaces, additional classrooms, and enhanced amenities that support increased public programs. The project also redesigns and rejuvenates more than three acres of public gardens and outdoor spaces on the Museum site.

As construction of the expansion and renovation of existing buildings progresses, Joslyn Art Museum will be closed to the public May 2, 2022, through early 2024. Read more at joslyn.org/expansion.

The **National Willa Cather Center** is an award-winning archive, museum, and study center owned and operated by the Willa Cather Foundation in Red Cloud, Nebraska. Established in 1955, the Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that preserves the historical settings and archival materials associated with Pulitzer Prize-winning author Willa Cather. Its mission is dedicated to advancing her work and legacy through education, preservation, and the arts.

Additional programs and services include regular guided historic site tours, conservation of the 612-acre Willa Cather Memorial Prairie, a Virtual Author Series, and organizing year-round cultural events and exhibits at the restored Red Cloud Opera House. Cather enthusiasts are encouraged to visit on-site or online to browse archival and museum collections and to tour ten properties that comprise the largest collection of nationally-designated historic sites related to an American author, including the Willa Cather Childhood Home, a National Historic Landmark. Additional programs include the Annual Willa Cather Spring Conference and biennial International Cather Seminars, which aim to foster appreciation and scholarship of Cather's life, time, and work. The Foundation also publishes the Willa Cather Review, a leading source for Cather-related news, features, and scholarship. Additionally, the NWCC operates host-free lodging for visitors through Airbnb at the Cather Second Home Guest House—a comfortable and historic Cather family home—and the Villa Willa, a modern and spacious loft-style apartment in downtown Red Cloud.

For information visit the National Willa Cather Center online at www.willacather.org or call (402) 746-2653 • Follow the NWCC @WillaCatherFdn—on Facebook (@RedCloudOperaHouse), Instagram (also @CatherGuestHouse), Twitter, and YouTube • Celebrating 100 years of the publication of Willa Cather's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, *One of Ours* (1922).

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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 **Willa Cather Archive** is a digital humanities project and team of people at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. They are currently at work publishing *The Complete Letters of Willa Cather*, a digital scholarly edition of Cather's correspondence. Tim Youd's visit to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln will include programming in collaboration with the Art Department, the English Department, and the University Libraries. He will type *O Pioneers!* at the site of a famous photo of Cather taken during her time as a student at the University of Nebraska in 1893.

Image

Tim Youd retyping Mary McCarthy's *The Group*; 487 pages typed on a Remington No. 3; Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY, April – May 2018. Photo by Mariana Vincenti for *The New York Times*.

Inquiries

Sarah Comegno at 212.594.0550 or sarah@cristintierney.com