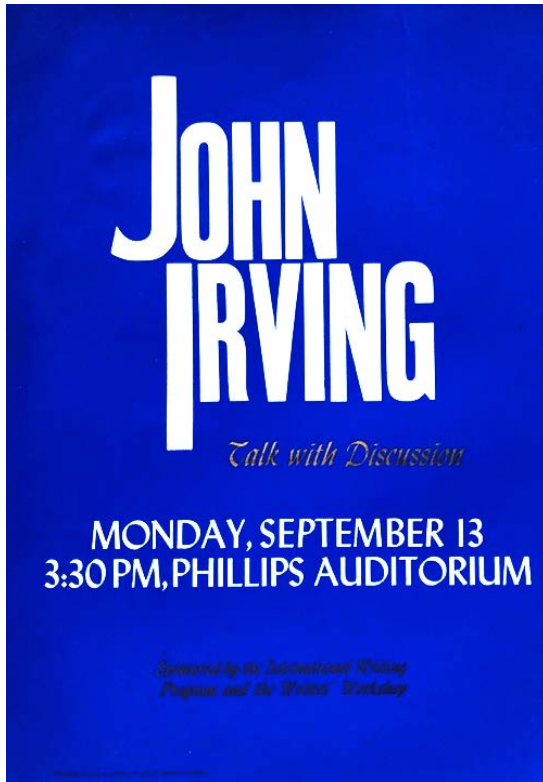
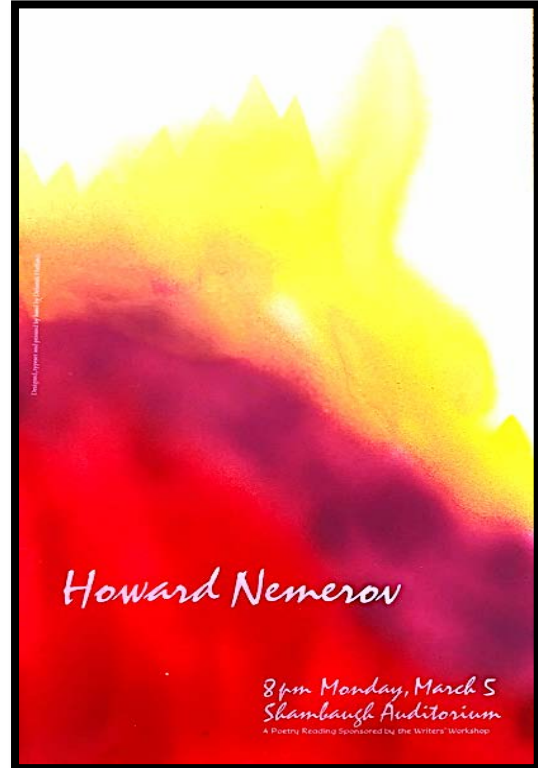


WRITER'S WORKSHOP POSTERS

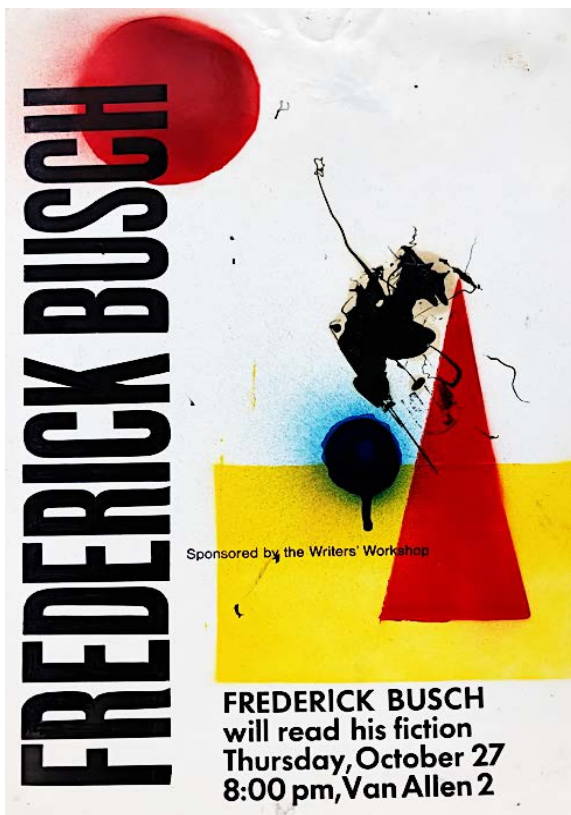
In graduate school at the University of Iowa, I taught letterpress printing, typography and publishing to Writer's Workshop students in a partnership between the Journalism department and The Center for the Books Arts. I also designed and hand-printed letterpress posters for the Writer's Workshop's fiction and poetry readings. An incredible experience! The Writer's Workshop presented a special exhibit of my posters at The Old Capitol. Below is a sampling.



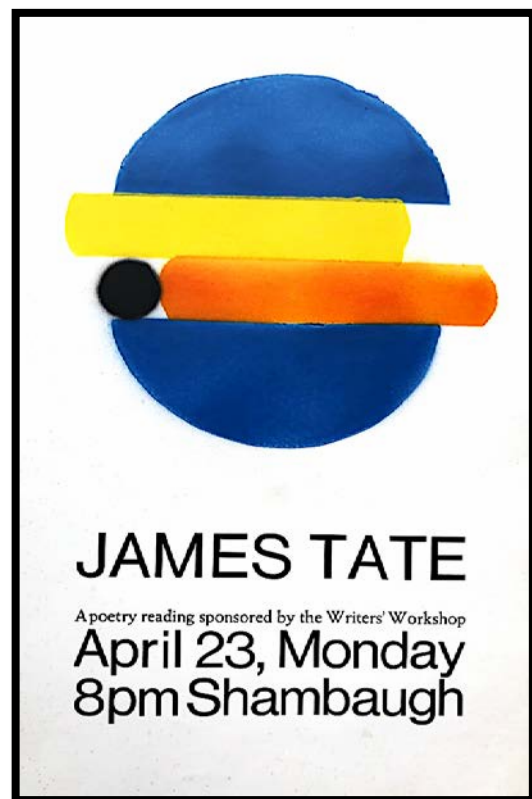
Bestselling author, John Irving, wrote *The Cider House Rules*, *A Prayer for Owen Meany* & others. He won an Oscar for his screenplay for *The Cider House Rules*.



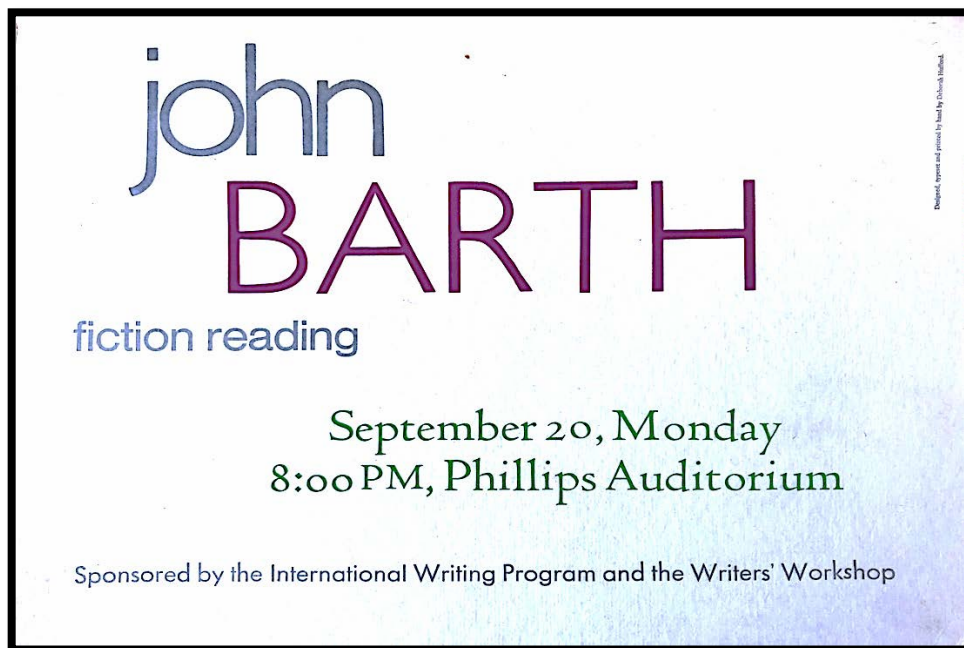
Poet Howard Nemerov won the National Book Award, Pulitzer Prize & Guggenheim Award. He was twice U.S. Poet Laureate in the 1960s and 1980s.



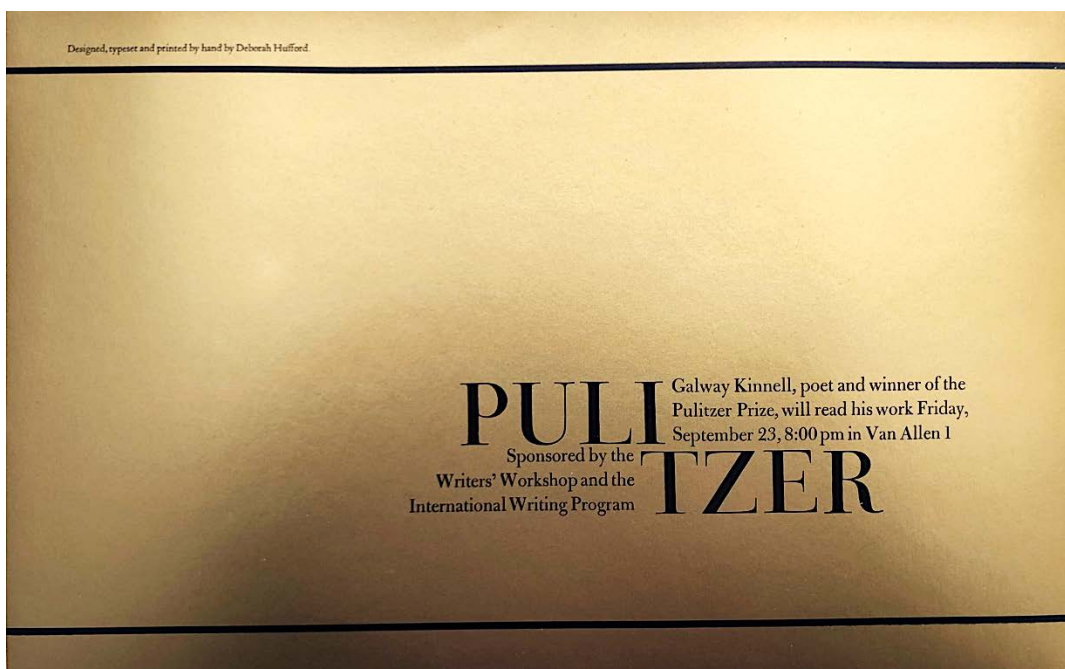
Frederick Busch authored many acclaimed novels & short stories. He won the Arts & Letters Award for Fiction, the PEN/Malamud & many other awards.



Poet James Tate earned the Pulitzer Prize, National Book Award & many others. He was a graduate of the UI Writer's Workshop where he began his serious work in writing poetry.



Novelist and short-story writer John Barth is best known for his postmodern fiction and won the National Book Award for his novel, *Chimera*, and many other awards.



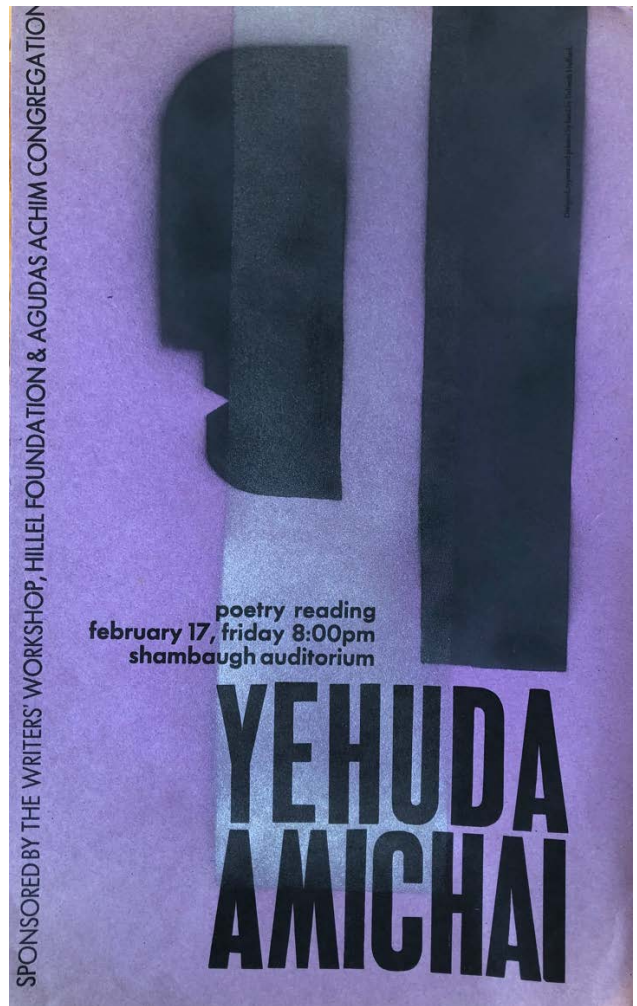
Poet Galway Kinnell had just won the Pulitzer and National Book Award when I printed this poster on metallic gold paper. But when he read his iconic poem, "The Bear" to a crowded lecture hall, I realized I should have printed it on tree bark or an animal hide, so organic and visceral is his poetry! His work celebrates the ugly, the uncelebrated.



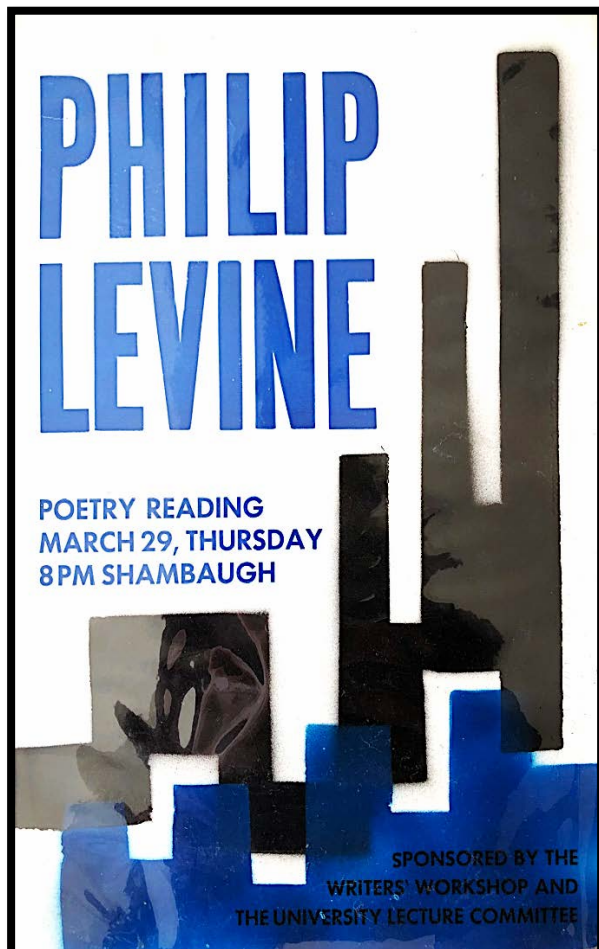
This poster designed for a Writer's Workshop lecture by novelist and critic, Albert Guerard, "Flying Carpets and Earthbound Critics." The poster was his favorite, as well as that of literary giant and publisher of literary fiction, David Godine.



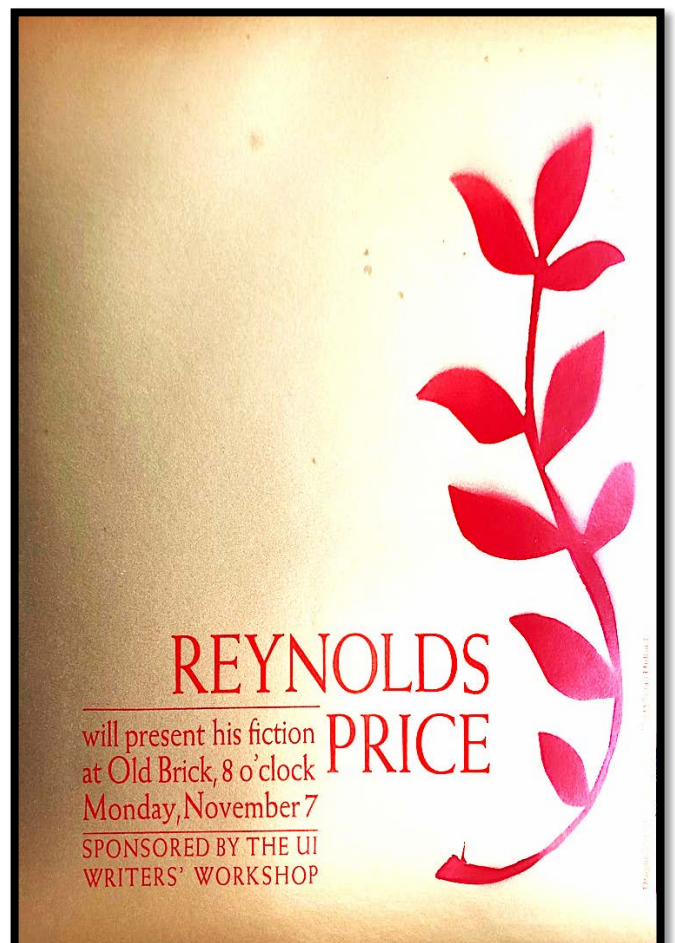
Novelist Marilynne Robinson was known for her fiction about rural life and faith. She won the Pulitzer, National Humanities Award & many others. She taught at the Writer's Workshop for 25 years.



For decades, Yehuda Amichai was regarded as Israel's greatest poet. His family fled Germany in 1936. His celebrated poetry reflects a personal angst as part of universal modern paradoxes.

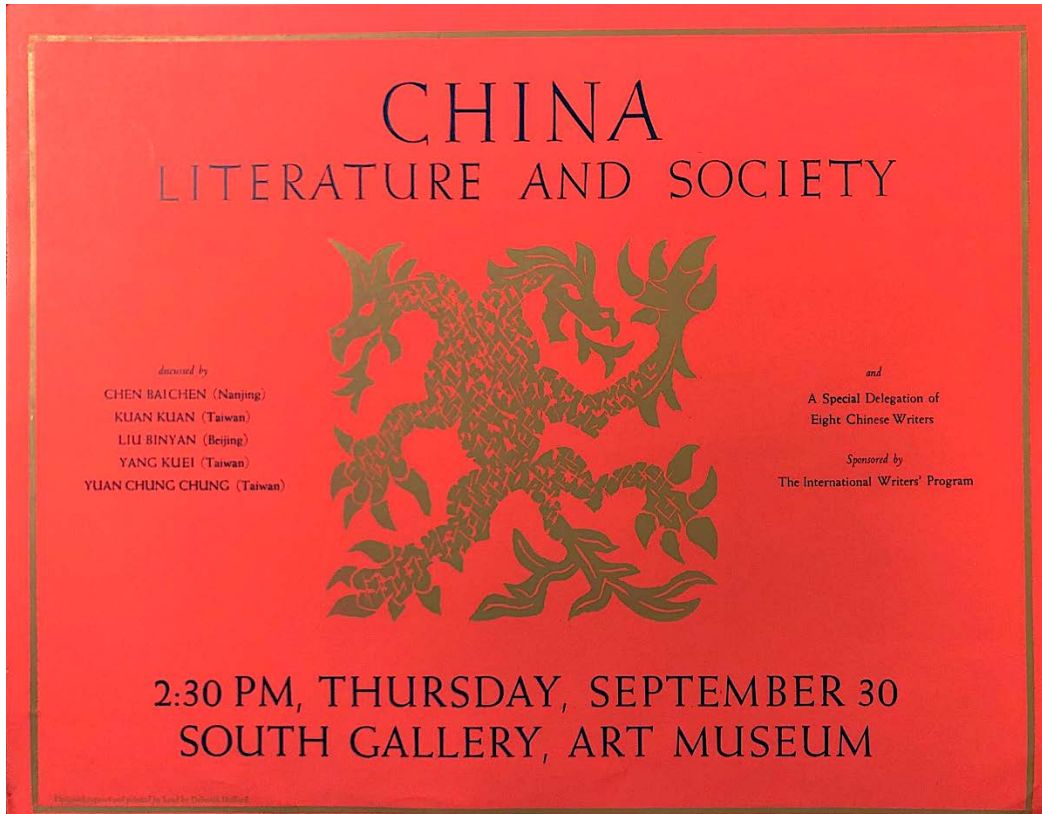


Poet Philip Levine was known for his poems about working-class Detroit. He won the Pulitzer, the National Book Award for Poetry, a Guggenheim & served as a U.S. Poet Laureate.

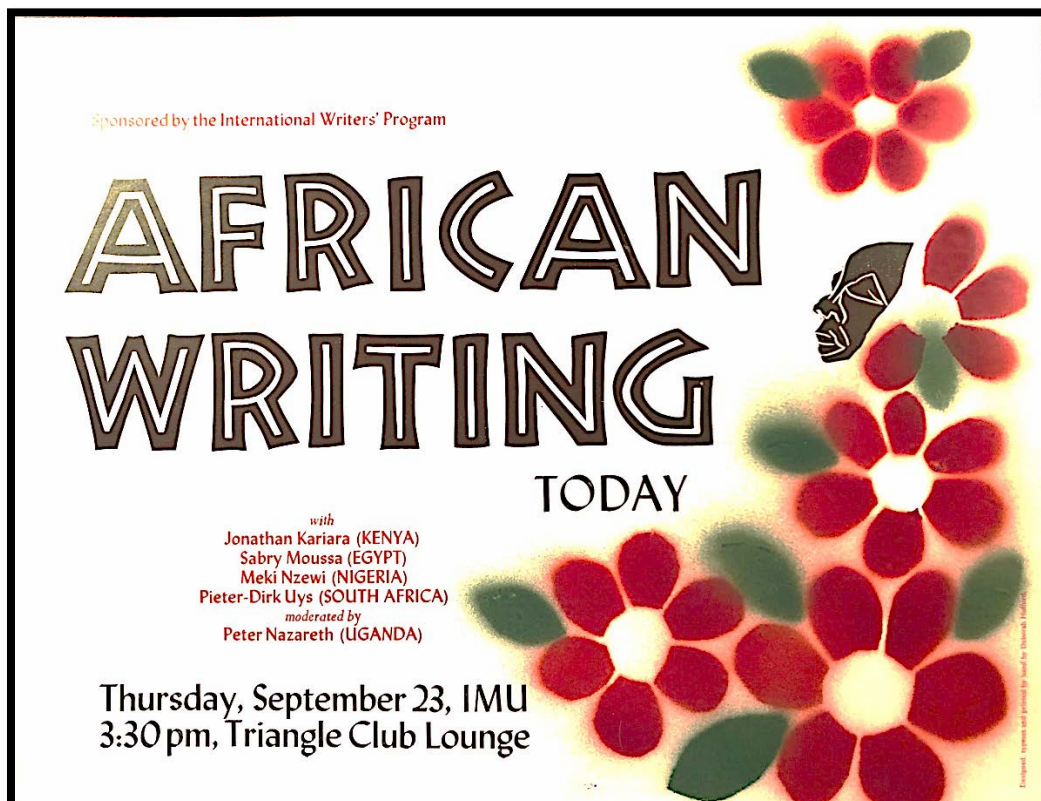


Poet and best-selling novelist Reynolds Price was one of the few writers to be featured on the cover of *Time* magazine. Part of his literary work explores Biblical historical research and how it affects faith.

INTERNATIONAL WRITING PROGRAM POSTERS



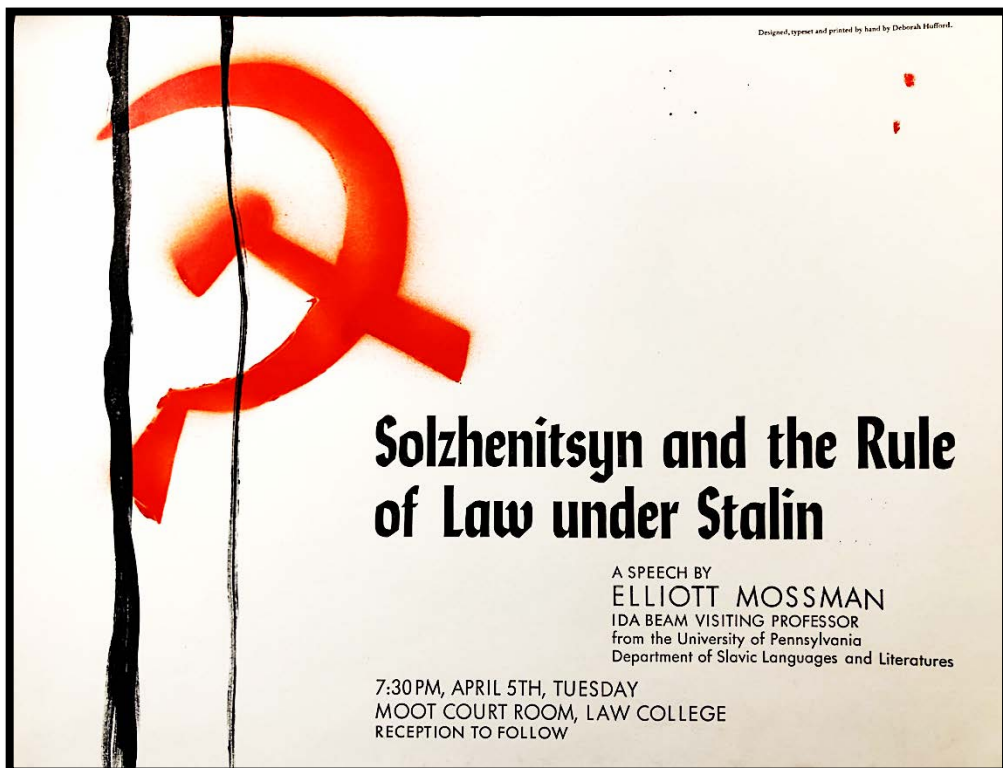
This poster featured some of China's most honored writers, many leading political dissidents. I used a beautiful red coated paper stock and metallic gold and royal blue ink colors. I carved a dragon, an iconic symbol of Chinese culture, on a wood block for the image.



This poster featured some of Africa's leading writers from Uganda, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, and Egypt. I chose large wooden type that I felt conveyed the African art and carving. I created stencils for the flower petals and leaves to give the piece a tropical feel.



This important forum of leading Latin American writers addressed their emerging voices, especially of women and dissidents who use “magical realism,” bold metaphors, and themes of solitude, alienation and anguish.



I tried to capture the essence of a lecture about the chilling effect of legal and philosophic strictures on speech, literature, and the arts in the Soviet Union.

A LITTLE ABOUT LETTERPRESS PRINTING



Letterpress printing is the type of printing that Johannes Gutenberg was credited with inventing around 1440. But this technique of reproducing images and text with “movable type,” was actually used in China perhaps as early as 1,000 A.D. This printing technique was used for many centuries, until the 1970s, to reproduce books, newspapers, posters, adverts, and many forms of ephemera.

In the U.S., as the iron presses and the large cabinets holding trays of metal and wooden type became obsolete, artisans, writers, educators, and universities began snatching up the equipment and establishing fine art printing presses. The 1980s saw a renaissance in letterpress printing. Artisans, university English departments and writing programs founded centers for the book arts that taught letter-press printing, as well as paper making, book binding, and other art forms related to the printed word.



The letterpress process is a physical, visceral experience: time-consuming, exacting, meditative, maddening, exhilarating, constricting, liberating. The written word and images conveyed to paper are created through a very linear and mechanical use of metal, wood, inks, and paper. Pictorial images can be produced only by hand through wood or linoleum block carvings, metal etchings, or hand stenciling or painting.



Printed pieces are reproduced in relatively small numbers because of the hand-made nature of the process, which makes the results even more dear.

Today, letterpress printerries produce fine-art books, art, writers' and poets' books, posters, art exhibit materials, wedding invitations (first made popular by Martha Stewart in the 1990s), and other ephemera. Many universities offer degree programs in letterpress printing and the book arts.



I was lucky to teach at the University of Iowa's early letterpress program. It became a mainstay of Iowa's Center for the Book Arts and a vibrant partner with The Writer's Workshop. And it was a workmanlike muse in inspiring me to write. 🍷