



SOMARTS
cultural center

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Jess Young, Director of Communications
& Community Engagement
415-863-1414 x112 • jess@somarts.org

**SOMArts Cultural Center Presents
FEAST OF WORDS: A LITERARY POTLUCK**

San Francisco's tastiest literary event features poet Kevin Simmonds, food by Peter Jackson, and a creative competition, Tuesday August 16th.

San Francisco, CA, August 3rd, 2011 — SOMArts Cultural Center presents *Feast of Words: A Literary Potluck*, a monthly dinner party where writers and foodies come together to eat, write, and share. Join co-hosts Lex Leifheit & Irina Zadov the third Tuesday of each month to discover local chefs and writers, bring a dish on the monthly theme, and participate in a creative competition for edible and literary prizes!

[Kevin Simmonds](#), an award-winning poet, artist, and musician raised in New Orleans, will read from his forthcoming book *Mad for Meat*, an exploration of sex, race, and culture inspired by his travels to Japan. Peter Jackson, Executive Chef of the culinary speakeasy [Canvas Underground](#), returns for his second appearance at Feast of Words. Jackson will present a Cajun ramen, a hybrid dish inspired by Simmonds' eclectic poetry.

August's theme "Blue Ribbon" is an exploration of the best of the best, inspired by [Frontrunners: The San Francisco Foundation 2011 Murphy & Cadogan Awards Exhibition](#). *Frontrunners*, on view in SOMArts' Main Gallery August 17th – September 16th, is a survey of new work from 23 Bay Area MFA student recipients of the competitive Murphy & Cadogan Fellowships in the Fine Arts.

The event will also include a creative competition of on-the-spot writing inspired by the theme. House opens at 6:30pm on **Tuesday, August 16th 2011** and space is limited. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$5 with a potluck dish, or \$12 at the door, cash bar. Come early to enjoy tasty eats contributed by our guest chef and potluck participants. Purchase tickets online at feastofwords.eventbrite.com.

Literary guest Kevin Simmonds is a writer, musician and filmmaker originally from New Orleans. His books include *Mad for Meat* (Salmon Poetry, 2011), *Collective Brightness: LGBTIQ Poets in Faith, Religion & Spirituality* (Sibling Rivalry Press, 2011) and *Ota Benga Under My Mother's Roof* (University of South Carolina, 2012). He wrote the music for the Emmy Award-winning documentary *HOPE: Living and Loving with HIV in Jamaica* and, his most recent collaboration with the same team, *Thunder in the Egg*, a project about Haiti commissioned by the Pulitzer Center, debuted at the 2011 National Black Theatre Festival. He divides his time between San Francisco and Japan.



SOMArTS
cultural center

Culinary guest Peter Jackson grew up around the corner from Chez Panisse in Berkeley. "I thought all restaurants used local, sustainable and organic ingredients." With this ideal in mind and determined to be a chef, Peter studied classic European cooking techniques from Austrian chef Ken Wolf at Contra Costa College in San Pablo and worked with many of the Bay Area's top Chefs including Jeremiah Tower, Mark Franz and Bradley Ogden among many others. After operating a small upscale restaurant in the Montclair district of Oakland for a few years he decided to sell the business and find some new challenges. For the last five years Peter, along with original Ghetto Gourmet accomplices Vera DeVera and David Kim, has been on the cutting edge of the underground food movement putting on dinners in all sort of venues from private homes to commercial fish processing facilities, making cured meats and running a food cart featuring his cured meats and signature gumbo.

Calendar Listing

What: [Feast of Words: A Literary Potluck](#) (Blue Ribbon)

Where: SOMArts Cultural Center (934 Brannan St, between 8th and 9th)

When: Tuesday, August 16th, 2011. 7:00PM – 9:00PM, house opens 6:30PM.

What else: Tickets are \$10 advance, \$5 with a potluck dish, and \$12 at the door. For more information visit <http://feastofwords.somarts.org> or write feastofwords@somarts.org

Lex Leifheit is the executive director of SOMArts Cultural Center. She co-founded the High Street Writers Collective in Connecticut and has organized readings online, on street corners, and in storefronts.

Irina Zadov is the Director of Experience and Programs at Zeum: San Francisco Children's Museum. She is a practicing artist with a passion for bringing people together through food, stories, and romps through the imagination.

About the SOMArts Studio Series

The SOMArts (South of Market Arts, Resources, Technology, and Services) Studio Series is an informal assemblage of arts classes and events designed to encourage the production of contemporary work by artists of all ages and skill levels in San Francisco.

About SOMArts Cultural Center

SOMArts (South of Market Arts, Resources, Technology, and Services) was founded in 1979 and operates the South of Market Cultural Center, one of four city-owned cultural facilities in San Francisco. SOMArts supports exhibitions, performances, classes and other collaborations that serve its mission: to promote and nurture art on the community level and foster an appreciation of and respect for all cultures.

For more information about upcoming events, space rentals and technical services, visit www.somarts.org or call 415-863-1414. SOMArts programs are supported by the San Francisco Arts Commission's Community Arts and Education Program, with funding from Grants for the Arts/San Francisco Hotel Tax Fund.

###