



THE POETRY SOCIETY

Press Release

For Immediate Release

June 3 2008

Poetry Society stands against Climate Change World Environment Day, 5 June 2008

The Poetry Society has commissioned award-winning poet, ecologist and educator Mario Petrucci to produce three environment-centred resource packs, designed for schools, young adults and poets:

1. **Poetry : the Environment.** Four of the most pressing Environmental themes, comprehensively explored through poetry.
2. **Biomimicry : Poetry.** This fascinating new branch of science is concerned with solving problems by imitating Nature.
3. **The Green Poetry Pack.** Poems and writing ideas to engage with the natural world, soil and trees, and local self-sufficiency (coming soon).

These lesson plans enter new territory for the Poetry Society and may also represent new territory for most classrooms, but this challenge is crucial. Perhaps the most important issue facing humanity at the moment is how we can change our way of life before oil and food shortages become unsolvable.

Leading scientists and activists worldwide are watching the clock, with mere decades ahead of us before a global disaster. Many are turning to poetry to engage these most pressing issues. Why not have poetry stand forward in turn?

Mario's poems pull no punches – they will intrigue, delight, terrify and provoke at every level of emotion, learning and action. There are moments of bleakness but there are windows of opportunity also.

In this unique commission, the Poetry Society hopes to give educators across the world a chance to educate the next generation, our children, in these most pressing of concerns, offering ways to ensure the survival of future generations.

The packs will be available for free on the Poetry Society's website from 5th June 2008. Visit: www.poetrysociety.org.uk/content/education/poetryclass/news/.

“Any intelligent fool can make things bigger, more complex, and more violent. It takes a touch of genius - and a lot of courage - to move in the opposite direction.”

— E F Schumacher

Ends

**For further information telephone George Ttoouli on
0207 420 9892 or email gtoouli@poetrysociety.org.uk**

Notes to editors

- Find out more about the Poetry Society at www.poetrysociety.org.uk
- Contact our Education Team about booking poet to give workshops: adahouk@poetrysociety.org.uk or bcolley@poetrysociety.org.uk

DESERTED

I use them too easily – lanes
of motorways, the dodgy walks
that turn to blackspots, roads
that are riderless, their trees
shorn like army haircuts

Groves tessellate with slabs,
parks, greens, commons
sprout litters of bins
Trunk roads, arterials, the loose
sphincters of ringroads –
press the hot pulse of traffic
to the hearts of cities
bring it to a stifled head
a fruitless breakfast jam

*The Estate? You hang
a left mate, then keep going
just keep going –
carry on right to the end
and you can't miss it:
bloody big concrete box.*

At a central reservation
the last zebra stretches out –
a welcome-mat for extinction
Still, I have gained gardens
of neatly aligned vehicles
hills, vales, rises
that heave under pie-crust
compo, squeeze green magmas
through cracks

*My Lord, I couldn't see
the signs. For fog. The asphalt
wasn't mine – on my mother's life
on the life of my child – I've had nothing
but hard shoulders to cry on.
Pre-stressed jungles to tramp.*

Before my very eyes
wind conjures bowls
of dust from which
I drink fug –
never mind
It's fine
Between strata of streets
I fossilize
Night

makes a circus of tarmac
The earth
is concrete
The moon
a crescent of cement