

Press Release

Ekphrasis

An Evening of Boxing & Poetry

UCLA | Department of European Languages & Transcultural Studies

Poetry Reading by Marco Rodriguez

Roundtable with Gabriele Tinti, Brian Kim Stefans and Doug Fischer

Moderated by Wilfrid Erwan Grandhomme

Monday, October 19th, 5PM to 7PM

UCLA Royce Hall, Room 236

Press Release

Los Angeles, xxx

On **October 19th**, at **5:00 PM**, the **UCLA Department of English**, in collaboration with the **Italian Cultural Institute of Los Angeles**, presents ***Ekphrasis***, an evening dedicated to the renowned poet and writer **Gabriele Tinti** and his celebrated series of ekphrastic poetry.

The event will open with the screening of poetry films inspired by ancient classical masterpieces, centered primarily on the iconic Hellenistic bronze sculpture *The Boxer at Rest*. Following the screening, Tinti will be joined by UCLA professor **Stefans Brian**, and **Doug Fischer**, Chief Editor of *The Ring Magazine*, for a panel discussion exploring the ancient art of ekphrasis and its modern poetic resurrection. The evening will conclude with a live poetry reading by actor **Marco Rodriguez**, performing Tinti's verses.

Tinti's work on 'The Boxer at Rest'—collected in a bilingual volume published by **Eris Press** (New York) and distributed by **Columbia University Press**—presents a series of poems and prose pieces composed as a "closet drama." Using the Boxer and ancient Rome as an anti-spectacular backdrop for a single voice, Tinti transforms a static bronze relic into a living emblem of human fragility and endurance.

A Global Project at the Intersection of Art and Literature This event is part of Tinti's internationally acclaimed project dedicated to reactivating visual masterpieces through poetry and dramatic reading. Celebrated by major media outlets including [The Times](#) and [The Guardian](#), Tinti's ekphrastic series—which also includes his volume *Ruins* (Libri Scheiwiller / Eris Press)—has been presented at leading cultural institutions worldwide, including The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The J. Paul Getty Museum, LACMA, The British Museum, The Art Institute of Chicago, and the Colosseum Archaeological Park.

Over the years, selections from this work have been performed by a roster of cinematic legends, including: Michael Imperioli (*The Sopranos*, *Goodfellas*) at the Queens Museum of Art (2011). Burt Young (*Rocky*, *Chinatown*) at the Queens Museum of Art (2013). Franco Nero (*Django*, *Camelot*) before the Boxer at Rest at the National Museum of Rome (2014). Robert Davi (*Die Hard*, *License to Kill*) at the J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles (2015). Alessandro Haber at the National Museum of Rome (2018). Two-time Academy Award winner Kevin Spacey (*American Beauty*, *The Usual Suspects*) at Palazzo Massimo, Rome (2019). In 2023, The FLAG Art Foundation in Chelsea used a verse from this collection as the title for an [exhibition](#) featuring works by George Bellows, Edward Hopper, Eadweard

Muybridge, Paul Pfeiffer, and Ed Ruscha. The exhibition subsequently traveled to the [Norton Museum of Art](#) in Miami in the fall of 2024.

Tinti's fascination with sculpture served as the catalyst for his broader series of ekphrastic writing, collected in the volume *Ruins* (Libri Scheiwiller, Milan and Eris Press, New York), and a series of masterclasses held at the LA Public Library (2024) and the University of Cambridge (2025).

Presented with the support of the **Italian Cultural Institute of Los Angeles** and in partnership with the **Fowler Museum** at UCLA as media partner, this special evening is hosted in collaboration with **The Georgian** as hospitality partner.

Event Details:

Date & Time: October 19, 5:00 PM

Location: UCLA Royce Hall, Room 236, Los Angeles, CA

Admission: Free / RSVP required at link

Partners: Supported by the **Italian Cultural Institute of Los Angeles**. Hospitality provided by **The Georgian**