

Press Release

California Dreaming A Poetic Itinerary Through Downtown Los Angeles by Gabriele Tinti and Jerry Stahl

Los Angeles, CA — On **October 17th** at **5:00 PM**, the streets of Downtown will serve as the backdrop for *California Dreaming*, a site-specific poetic performance conceived by acclaimed Italian poet Gabriele Tinti and performed alongside celebrated author, screenwriter, and actor Jerry Stahl.

Renowned for his raw, cult-classic memoir *Permanent Midnight* and his indelible contribution to American counterculture, Stahl brings his singular literary voice and subterranean West Coast sensibility to Tinti's evocative verses. Together, they will guide audiences through a historical and emotional pilgrimage across the city's most storied sites—from the Los Angeles Public Library to the Cecil Hotel.

Conceived as a poetic walk through a metropolis layered with memory, *California Dreaming* seeks to uncover the symbolic and emotional strata of Los Angeles. Moving through urban myth and architectural grandeur, Tinti's original verses give new voice to the city's past, exploring the thin line between beauty, tragedy, and human resilience.

The journey begins at the Maguire Gardens entrance of the Los Angeles Public Library, where the opening readings will evoke the founding myth of *El Pueblo de Nuestra Señora la Reina de los Angeles del Río de Porciúncula*. Marking the 800th anniversary of the death of Saint Francis of Assisi, the performance honors the Franciscan origins of the modest 18th-century settlement that eventually grew into one of the world's cultural capitals. From the library, the itinerary continues to The Biltmore Hotel, a landmark of Hollywood's golden age where Elizabeth Short, known as the Black Dahlia, was last seen before her tragic death. The performance then moves to 615 South Broadway, in front of the historic Los Angeles Theatre, reinhabiting the silent movie palaces that once formed the glowing artery of American cinema. The walk also stops before the Cecil Hotel to confront its dark history and spectral lore, before concluding on Skid Row with a final reading dedicated to the contradictions of despair, unexpected dignity, and humanity.

Following the final reading, participants are invited to an aperitivo at The Wolves in Downtown Los Angeles.

This project is part of Tinti's internationally acclaimed series dedicated to reactivating visual art, historical spaces, and urban legends through dramatic readings. Celebrated by major outlets including *The Times* and *The Guardian*, Tinti's ekphrastic projects have been presented at leading cultural institutions worldwide—including The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The J. Paul Getty Museum, LACMA, The British Museum, and the Colosseum Archaeological Park—with performances by notable actors such as Willem Dafoe, Abel Ferrara, Malcolm McDowell, and Stephen Fry.

Presented with the support of the **Italian Cultural Institute**, *California Dreaming* is organized in partnership with **Historic Core**, with **The Georgian** as hospitality partner and **The Lab Magazine** as media partner.

Date & Time: October 17th at 5:00 PM

Meeting Point: Maguire Gardens Entrance, Los Angeles Public Central Library, Downtown Los Angeles

Presented with the support of: The Italian Cultural Institute

Post-Event Reception: Aperitivo at **The Wolves**, Downtown Los Angeles

Capacity: Strictly limited to 30 guests

Admission: Free / RSVP required at thepoetatrest@icloud.com

Media Contact: gabrieletinti.studio@gmail.com