

frank o hara meditations in an emergency

Frank O'Hara Meditations in an Emergency: Exploring the Poetic Pulse of Urgency and Everyday Life

frank o hara meditations in an emergency is more than just the title of a celebrated poetry collection—it's an invitation to immerse oneself in the vibrant, spontaneous, and deeply personal reflections that define Frank O'Hara's work. Known for blending the immediacy of daily life with profound emotional depth, O'Hara's poems capture moments of crisis and calm with equal grace. If you've ever wondered how poetry can navigate the chaos of an emergency, or how art reflects the tensions of urban existence, diving into O'Hara's meditations offers a rich and rewarding experience.

In this article, we'll explore the essence of Frank O'Hara's **Meditations in an Emergency**, unpack its themes, style, and significance, and understand why it continues to resonate with readers and writers alike. Whether you're a student of poetry, a fan of mid-20th century American literature, or simply curious about how O'Hara's work captures the pulse of New York City life and the complexities of human emotion, there's something here for you.

Who Was Frank O'Hara and What Makes His Meditations Unique?

Frank O'Hara was a central figure in the New York School of poets, a group known for their informal, conversational style and their embrace of everyday urban moments. Born in 1926, O'Hara worked as an art curator at the Museum of Modern Art, which deeply influenced his poetic sensibility, blending visual art with literature.

The New York School and Its Influence on **Meditations in an Emergency**

O'Hara's **Meditations in an Emergency** (published in 1957) reflects the spontaneity and immediacy characteristic of the New York School. Unlike traditional poetry that often clings to strict formality, O'Hara's poems feel like intimate notes or diary entries, capturing fleeting moments and emotional truths. His work is filled with references to contemporary culture, jazz music, art, and the bustling streets of New York City.

This context is essential to appreciate how **Meditations in an Emergency** encapsulates the tension between the ordinary and the urgent. The poems move

fluidly between casual observations and profound existential reflections, often blurring the boundary between the public and the private.

Key Themes in Frank O'Hara's *Meditations in an Emergency*

Exploring the major themes of **Meditations in an Emergency** helps us understand why the collection remains a milestone in modern American poetry.

Urgency and the Ephemeral Nature of Life

O'Hara's poetry often embodies a sense of immediacy—an engagement with the "now" that feels both urgent and fleeting. The very title suggests a state of crisis or pressing concern, yet the poems themselves move with a casual, almost conversational rhythm. This juxtaposition highlights the fragile balance between life's mundane moments and its unpredictable emergencies.

For example, in the title poem "Meditations in an Emergency," O'Hara writes about love and mortality against the backdrop of a tense geopolitical climate (the Cold War era). The poem's meditative tone contrasts with the external chaos, revealing how personal emotions can serve as both refuge and reckoning during turbulent times.

Love, Desire, and Human Connection

Love and desire permeate much of O'Hara's work. His poems often read like letters or phone calls to friends and lovers, emphasizing the importance of connection amidst the unpredictability of life. In **Meditations in an Emergency**, moments of intimacy are sharply etched against the wider social anxieties, reminding readers of the human need for warmth and companionship even when the world feels unstable.

O'Hara's candid expression of affection, sometimes playful, sometimes tender, contributes to the accessibility and emotional resonance of the collection.

Urban Life and Artistic Inspiration

New York City is more than just a backdrop in **Meditations in an Emergency**—it's a living, breathing character. O'Hara's poems capture the energy, diversity, and sometimes alienation of urban existence. His references to art, music, restaurants, and the city's streets paint a vivid picture of 1950s New York.

This immersion in city life also reflects the poet's role as an art critic and curator, intertwining visual culture with poetic expression. The collection serves as a snapshot of a vibrant creative milieu, where art and life converge in unexpected ways.

Stylistic Features That Define *Meditations in an Emergency*

Frank O'Hara's style is central to the appeal and lasting influence of *Meditations in an Emergency*. Let's break down some key stylistic elements that make his poetry distinctive.

Conversational Tone and Spontaneity

One of the most striking aspects of O'Hara's poetry is its conversational, almost improvisational tone. The poems often feel like overheard conversations or spontaneous musings, which makes them highly relatable. This style mimics the rhythms of everyday speech, punctuated by sudden shifts in emotion or thought.

This natural, unforced delivery invites readers into O'Hara's mental landscape, making the themes of urgency and intimacy feel immediate and personal.

Intertextuality and Cultural References

O'Hara's poems are peppered with references to contemporary artists, musicians, friends, and cultural events. These intertextual elements enrich the reading experience by situating the poems within a wider cultural context. For instance, mentions of jazz musicians or painters like Willem de Kooning illuminate the artistic environment that shaped O'Hara's worldview.

This blending of high art and popular culture invites readers to see poetry as a living dialogue between different creative spheres.

Free Verse and Fluid Structure

Rejecting strict formal constraints, O'Hara's work often employs free verse, allowing ideas and images to flow organically. The poems lack rigid rhyme schemes or meter, but they maintain a rhythmic energy that propels the reader forward.

This fluidity mirrors the unpredictable nature of emergencies and everyday life, reinforcing the thematic core of the collection.

Why *Meditations in an Emergency* Still Matters Today

In an age of constant connectivity, rapid information flow, and global uncertainties, Frank O'Hara's **Meditations in an Emergency** feels surprisingly relevant. The collection's exploration of personal and societal tensions, love amid crisis, and the search for meaning in a chaotic world speaks across generations.

Lessons for Writers and Readers

For poets and writers, O'Hara's work offers valuable lessons in embracing spontaneity, blending personal voice with cultural commentary, and finding beauty in the ordinary. His poems encourage creative risk-taking and authenticity.

For readers, **Meditations in an Emergency** provides a window into a specific historical moment while addressing universal human experiences. It reminds us that even during emergencies—whether personal, political, or emotional—there is room for reflection, connection, and art.

Inspiration for Contemporary Art and Culture

Beyond literature, O'Hara's meditations have inspired visual artists, musicians, and performers who appreciate the interplay of immediacy and depth. His approach to capturing the flux of urban life and emotional complexity continues to influence creative expression in diverse fields.

Tips for Engaging with Frank O'Hara's *Meditations in an Emergency*

If you're new to Frank O'Hara or revisiting **Meditations in an Emergency**, here are some ways to deepen your appreciation:

- **Read aloud:** O'Hara's conversational tone and rhythmic flow come alive when spoken, revealing nuances of pacing and emotion.

- **Research references:** Look up the cultural and artistic figures O'Hara mentions to understand the vibrant milieu behind the poems.
- **Consider historical context:** Reflect on the Cold War era and 1950s New York City to grasp the external pressures shaping the poems.
- **Write your own meditations:** Try crafting spontaneous poems or journal entries inspired by your own moments of urgency or everyday beauty.

Exploring **Meditations in an Emergency** can become a personal journey, connecting you to the rhythms of a past era while resonating with present-day experiences.

Frank O'Hara's unique ability to capture the intersection of crisis and celebration, the ephemeral and the eternal, continues to invite readers into a world where poetry is not just art but a lived experience—alive, urgent, and deeply human.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'Meditations in an Emergency' by Frank O'Hara?

'Meditations in an Emergency' is a poetry collection by Frank O'Hara, first published in 1957. It showcases his distinctive style that blends everyday experiences with emotional depth and urban life.

What themes are explored in 'Meditations in an Emergency'?

The collection explores themes such as love, mortality, urban life, identity, and the immediacy of experience, often reflecting O'Hara's personal life and New York City culture.

How does Frank O'Hara's style manifest in 'Meditations in an Emergency'?

O'Hara's style in this collection is characterized by conversational tone, spontaneity, humor, and a mix of high and low cultural references, capturing moments of daily life with emotional intensity.

Why is 'Meditations in an Emergency' considered

important in American poetry?

It is considered a landmark of the New York School of poetry, influencing contemporary poets with its innovative style that blends personal narrative with urban modernity.

Can you analyze the poem 'Meditations in an Emergency' from the collection?

The poem reflects on existential anxiety and the search for meaning amid chaos, using vivid imagery and a casual, intimate voice to convey a sense of immediacy and vulnerability.

What role does New York City play in 'Meditations in an Emergency'?

New York City is both a backdrop and a central character in the poems, embodying energy, diversity, and the complex emotional landscape that O'Hara navigates.

How did Frank O'Hara's personal life influence the poems in 'Meditations in an Emergency'?

O'Hara's experiences as an openly gay man, an art critic, and a vibrant participant in the New York art scene deeply inform the poems, adding layers of personal and cultural significance.

Where can I find a complete collection of Frank O'Hara's 'Meditations in an Emergency'?

The collection is available in print through major bookstores and online retailers. Additionally, many poems can be found on literary websites and in anthologies of American poetry.

Additional Resources

Frank O'Hara Meditations in an Emergency: An Analytical Exploration

frank o hara meditations in an emergency stands as one of the most vivid and compelling works in mid-20th-century American poetry. This poem, emblematic of O'Hara's unique voice and style, offers a window into the urban experience and the spontaneous flow of thought characteristic of the New York School of poets. As a cultural artifact, it invites readers and critics alike to delve into its layered meanings, stylistic nuances, and the socio-historical context that shaped its creation.

Contextualizing Frank O'Hara's Meditations in an Emergency

Frank O'Hara, a seminal figure in modernist poetry, wrote "Meditations in an Emergency" during a period marked by rapid urban development and shifting cultural landscapes in 1950s New York. Unlike traditional poetic forms, O'Hara's approach was conversational, immediate, and deeply personal. His work reflects the vibrancy and chaos of city life, often blurring the boundaries between the public sphere and intimate experience.

The poem "Meditations in an Emergency" is part of a larger collection published in 1957, which consolidated many of O'Hara's innovative stylistic experiments. The title itself suggests a reflective process undertaken during a moment of crisis or heightened awareness. This duality of meditation and emergency encapsulates the tension between calm introspection and urgent external realities—a theme that resonates throughout the poem.

Stylistic Features and Literary Techniques

One of the defining characteristics of "Meditations in an Emergency" is its conversational tone. O'Hara's use of colloquial language, free verse structure, and stream-of-consciousness style creates a sense of immediacy and intimacy. The poem's rhythm mimics natural speech, enhancing its accessibility and emotional impact.

Imagery plays a crucial role in conveying the poem's thematic concerns. Urban motifs—such as streets, cars, and buildings—intertwine with personal reflections, grounding the poem in a specific socio-cultural milieu. O'Hara's imagery is often fragmented, mirroring the disjointed nature of modern life and thought.

Additionally, repetition and juxtaposition are employed strategically. The phrase "I am not a hero" recurs, underscoring a self-aware vulnerability that contrasts with the chaotic external world. This tension between self-perception and environment is central to understanding the poem's emotional resonance.

Thematic Exploration

At its core, "Meditations in an Emergency" grapples with themes of identity, temporality, and the search for meaning amid urban alienation. The "emergency" can be interpreted both literally and metaphorically, representing personal crises or broader existential anxieties.

O'Hara's reflections on heroism and selfhood challenge conventional narratives of strength and courage. By asserting "I am not a hero," the

speaker acknowledges human frailty and the complexity of contemporary life. This candid self-examination invites readers to reconsider their own responses to adversity.

Moreover, the poem captures the fleeting nature of experience, emphasizing the importance of the present moment. This aligns with O'Hara's broader poetic philosophy, often described as "I do this I do that," which celebrates spontaneity and the immediacy of lived experience.

Comparative Perspectives: Frank O'Hara and His Contemporaries

Understanding "Meditations in an Emergency" within the broader landscape of 20th-century poetry enhances appreciation for its innovation. Compared to the confessional intensity of poets like Sylvia Plath or Robert Lowell, O'Hara's work exhibits a lighter, more urbane sensibility. His poetry often prioritizes external observation and cultural engagement over internal psychological excavation.

The New York School, of which O'Hara was a prominent member, embraced influences from abstract expressionism and jazz, infusing their poetry with spontaneity and improvisational energy. This distinguishes "Meditations in an Emergency" from the more structured or formalist poetry prevalent during the same era.

In terms of thematic content, O'Hara's focus on everyday life and interpersonal relationships contrasts with the epic or mythic concerns in the works of contemporaries such as Allen Ginsberg. This grounding in the quotidian contributes to the poem's enduring relevance and relatability.

Critical Reception and Legacy

Since its publication, "Meditations in an Emergency" has been widely studied and anthologized, securing its place as a cornerstone of modern American poetry. Critics have praised its innovative style, emotional honesty, and cultural insight. The poem's accessibility has also made it popular among readers new to poetry, bridging the gap between academic and popular audiences.

However, some critiques have emerged regarding the poem's perceived casualness or lack of formal rigor. Detractors argue that O'Hara's spontaneous style can sometimes verge on the ephemeral, risking superficiality. Yet, proponents counter that this very quality captures the essence of contemporary life more authentically than traditional poetic forms.

The poem's influence extends beyond literature, inspiring artists, musicians, and scholars interested in the intersections of urban culture and artistic expression. Its themes of immediacy and vulnerability continue to resonate in the digital age, where rapid communication and fragmented attention dominate.

Key Elements That Define Meditations in an Emergency

- **Urban Imagery:** The poem vividly depicts New York City's landscapes, embedding personal reflection within a bustling metropolis.
- **Conversational Tone:** O'Hara's informal language creates a sense of immediacy and intimacy.
- **Exploration of Identity:** The speaker's self-declared non-heroism challenges traditional notions of strength.
- **Temporal Awareness:** Emphasis on the fleeting present moment underscores the poem's meditative quality.
- **Stylistic Innovation:** Use of free verse, stream-of-consciousness, and repetition contributes to the poem's dynamic rhythm.

Why Frank O'Hara's Meditations in an Emergency Remains Relevant

In an era marked by fast-paced lifestyles and constant change, "Meditations in an Emergency" offers a poetic model for navigating uncertainty. Its blend of personal vulnerability and cultural observation allows readers to engage with both their inner selves and external realities.

The poem's emphasis on living "in the moment" aligns closely with contemporary mindfulness practices and philosophical inquiries into presence. Furthermore, O'Hara's candid acknowledgment of imperfection and non-heroism provides a counter-narrative to prevailing ideals of success and resilience.

As digital media reshapes how individuals experience time and space, O'Hara's work reminds us of the value of reflection amid chaos. Its urban sensibility and emotional depth continue to inspire new generations of poets and readers seeking authentic expressions of modern life.

Frank O'Hara's "Meditations in an Emergency" thus stands as a testament to the enduring power of poetry to capture the complexities of human experience.

Its innovative style, thematic richness, and cultural resonance ensure its place within the canon of influential American literature.

Frank O Hara Meditations In An Emergency

frank o hara meditations in an emergency: Meditations in an Emergency Frank O'Hara, 1967

frank o hara meditations in an emergency: Meditations in an Emergency Frank O'Hara, 1967 Frank O'Hara was one of the great poets of the twentieth century and, along with such widely acclaimed writers as Denise Levertov, Allen Ginsberg, Robert Creeley, and Gary Snyder, a crucial contributor to what Donald Allen termed the New American Poetry, which, by its vitality alone, became the dominant force in the American poetic tradition. This collection demonstrates beautifully the flawless rhythm underlying O'Hara's conviction that to write poetry, indeed to live, you just go on your nerve.

frank o hara meditations in an emergency: The Collected Poems of Frank O'Hara Frank O'Hara, 1995-03-31 Available for the first time in paperback, The Collected Poems of Frank O'Hara reflects the poet's growth as an artist from the earliest dazzling, experimental verses that he began writing in the late 1940s to the years before his accidental death at forty, when his poems became increasingly individual and reflective.

frank o hara meditations in an emergency: FRANK O'HARA Ultimate Collection: 100+ Poems in One Volume Frank O'Hara, 2023-11-16 In the FRANK O'HARA Ultimate Collection: 100+ Poems in One Volume, readers are introduced to a vibrant tapestry of lyrical outpourings that epitomize O'Hara's innovative blend of spontaneity and urban realism. Characterized by its conversational tone and a keen observational acuity, this collection showcases O'Hara's quintessential New York City backdrop, masterfully interweaving personal narrative with broader cultural commentary. Each poem is a snapshot of modern life, revealing the profound beauty in mundane moments through his unique use of enjambment and visual imagery, situating O'Hara within the confessional and New York School movements of the mid-20th century. Frank O'Hara, a prominent figure in American poetry, was deeply influenced by his experiences as a poet, art curator, and cultural provocateur. His background in art and his friendships with avant-garde artists shaped his literary voice, embodying a sense of immediacy and emotional authenticity. O'Hara's work reflects the rhythm of urban life and his earnest engagement with the world around him, leading him to craft poetry that is both intimate and expansive. This collection is a must-read for lovers of contemporary poetry, as it encapsulates O'Hara's genius in celebrating the transient beauty of life's moments. Dive into this work to experience the effervescence of 20th-century New York through the eyes of one of its most beloved chroniclers. O'Hara's ability to capture the essence of human connection and the intricacies of daily existence will resonate with anyone seeking a deeper understanding of life and art.

frank o hara meditations in an emergency: Frank O'Hara Jim Elledge, 1990 A wonderful and essential collection of reviews and essays (many from now-defunct small magazines) on the poetry, as well as the prose and plays, of the great poet of the New York school, who died in 1966 at the age of 40. No index. Annotation copyrighted by Book News, Inc., Portland, OR

frank o hara meditations in an emergency: *Poetics of Emergence* Benjamin Lee, 2020-07-01 Experimental poetry responded to historical change in the decades after World War II, with an attitude of such casual and reckless originality that its insights have often been overlooked. However, as Benjamin Lee argues, to ignore the scenes of self and the historical occasions captured by experimental poets during the 1950s and 1960s is to overlook a rich and instructive resource for our own complicated transition into the twenty-first century. Frank O'Hara and fellow experimental

poets like Amiri Baraka, Diane di Prima, and Allen Ginsberg offer us a set of perceptive responses to Cold War culture, lyric meditations on consequential changes in U.S. social life and politics, including the decline of the Old Left, the rise of white-collar workers, and the emergence of vernacular practices like hipsterism and camp. At the same time, they offer us opportunities to anatomize our own desire for historical significance and belonging, a desire we may well see reflected and reconfigured in the work of these poets.

frank o hara meditations in an emergency: The Serpent and the Fire Jerome Rothenberg, Javier Taboada, 2024 Jerome Rothenberg's final anthology--an experiment in omnipoetics with Javier Taboada--reaches into the deepest origins of the Americas, north and south, to redefine America and its poetries. The Serpent and the Fire breaks out of deeply entrenched models that limit American literature to work written in English within the present boundaries of the United States. Editors Jerome Rothenberg and Javier Taboada gather vital pieces from all parts of the Western Hemisphere and the breadth of European and Indigenous languages within: a unique range of cultures and languages going back several millennia, an experiment in what the editors call an American omnipoetics. The Serpent and the Fire is divided into four chronological sections--from early pre-Columbian times to the immediately contemporary--and five thematic sections that move freely across languages and shifting geographical boundaries to underscore the complexities, conflicts, contradictions, and continuities of the poetry of the Americas. The book also boasts contextualizing commentaries to connect the poets and poems in dialogue across time and space.

frank o hara meditations in an emergency: The Greatest Poems of Frank O'Hara Frank O'Hara, 2023-11-15 In 'The Greatest Poems of Frank O'Hara,' readers are immersed in the vibrant and immediate world of one of the foremost figures of the New York School of poetry. O'Hara's work is characterized by its spontaneity, colloquial language, and deeply personal themes, often weaving in the sights and sounds of urban life as well as his intimate connections with friends and lovers. This anthology captures the essence of O'Hara's innovative style, which blends the everyday with the profound, inviting readers to experience the fleeting moments that define contemporary existence. From playful observations to poignant reflections, O'Hara's poetry resonates within the broader context of mid-20th century avant-garde movements, challenging conventional forms and embracing a uniquely American voice. Frank O'Hara (1926-1966) was not only a poet but also a curator and art critic, deeply embedded in the New York art scene. His collaborations with artists and involvement in the vibrant cultural milieu of his time undoubtedly shaped his creative vision, leading him to articulate the complexities of life in an era marked by rapid change. A contemporary of luminaries such as Jackson Pollock and Andy Warhol, O'Hara's poetry reflects an acute awareness of the interplay between art and life. For those seeking a captivating exploration of modern poetry, 'The Greatest Poems of Frank O'Hara' is an essential read. It serves as both an introduction for new readers and a profound reminder for long-time fans of O'Hara's unique gift for capturing the essence of human experience. Dive into this collection to experience the beauty and immediacy of O'Hara's voice, where every poem resonates with the pulse of life itself.

frank o hara meditations in an emergency: Widows' Words Nan Bauer-Maglin, 2019-05-03 Becoming a widow is one of the most traumatic life events that a woman can experience. Yet, as this remarkable new collection reveals, each woman responds to that trauma differently. Here, forty-three widows tell their stories, in their own words. Some were widowed young, while others were married for decades. Some cared for their late partners through long terminal illnesses, while others lost their partners suddenly. Some had male partners, while others had female partners. Yet each of these women faced the same basic dilemma: how to go on living when a part of you is gone. Widows' Words is arranged chronologically, starting with stories of women preparing for their partners' deaths, followed by the experiences of recent widows still reeling from their fresh loss, and culminating in the accounts of women who lost their partners many years ago but still experience waves of grief. Their accounts deal honestly with feelings of pain, sorrow, and despair, and yet there are also powerful expressions of strength, hope, and even joy. Whether you are a widow yourself or have simply experienced loss, you will be sure to find something moving and profound in these

diverse tales of mourning, remembrance, and resilience.

frank o hara meditations in an emergency: The Best American Poetry 2009 David Wagoner, David Lehman, 2009-09-22 Award-winning poet David Wagoner and renowned editor David Lehman present the 2009 edition of Best American Poetry—a 'best' anthology that really lives up to its title (Chicago Tribune). Eagerly anticipated by scholars, students, readers, and poets alike, Scribner's Best American Poetry series has achieved brand-name status in the literary world, serving as a yearly guide to who's who in American poetry. Known for his marvelous narrative skill and humane wit, David Wagoner is one of the few poets of his generation to win the universal admiration of his peers. Working in conjunction with series editor David Lehman, Wagoner brings his refreshing eye to this year's anthology. With new work by established poets, such as Billy Collins, Denise Duhamel, Mark Doty, and Bob Hicok, The Best American Poetry 2009 also features some of tomorrow's leading luminaries. Readers of all ages and backgrounds will treasure this illuminating collection of modern American verse. With its high-profile editorship and its generous embrace of American poetry in all its exuberant variety, the Best American Poetry series continues to be, as Robert Pinsky says, as good a comprehensive overview of contemporary poetry as there can be.

frank o hara meditations in an emergency: The New York School Poets and the Neo-Avant-Garde Dr Mark Silverberg, 2013-04-28 New York City was the site of a remarkable cultural and artistic renaissance during the 1950s and '60s. In the first monograph to treat all five major poets of the New York School—John Ashbery, Barbara Guest, Kenneth Koch, Frank O'Hara, and James Schuyler—Mark Silverberg examines this rich period of cross-fertilization between the arts. Silverberg uses the term 'neo-avant-garde' to describe New York School Poetry, Pop Art, Conceptual Art, Happenings, and other movements intended to revive and revise the achievements of the historical avant-garde, while remaining keenly aware of the new problems facing avant-gardists in the age of late capitalism. Silverberg highlights the family resemblances among the New York School poets, identifying the aesthetic concerns and ideological assumptions they shared with one another and with artists from the visual and performing arts. A unique feature of the book is Silverberg's annotated catalogue of collaborative works by the five poets and other artists. To comprehend the coherence of the New York School, Silverberg demonstrates, one must understand their shared commitment to a reconceptualized idea of the avant-garde specific to the United States in the 1950s and '60s, when the adversary culture of the Beats was being appropriated and repackaged as popular culture. Silverberg's detailed analysis of the strategies the New York School poets used to confront the problem of appropriation tells us much about the politics of taste and gender during the period, and suggests new ways of understanding succeeding generations of artists and poets.

frank o hara meditations in an emergency: Mentor and Muse Blas Falconer, Beth Martinelli, Helena Mesa, 2010-08-30 In *Mentor and Muse*, a collection of twenty-nine insightful essays by some of today's leading poetic minds, editors Blas Falconer, Beth Martinelli, and Helena Mesa have brought together an illuminating anthology that draws upon both established and emerging poets to create a one-of-a-kind resource and unlock the secrets of writing and revising poetry. Gathered here are numerous experts eager to share their wisdom with other writers. Each author examines in detail a particular poetic element, shedding new light on the endless possibilities of poetic forms. Addressed within are such topics as the fluid possibilities of imagery in poetry; the duality of myth and the personal, and the power of one to unlock the other; the surprising versatility of traditional poetic forms; and the pleasure of collaboration with other poets. Also explored in depth are the formative roles of cultural identity and expectations, and their effect on composition; advice on how to develop one's personal poetic style and approach; the importance of setting in reading and meaning; and the value of indirection in the lyric poem. Challenges to conventional concepts of beauty are examined through Shakespeare's sonnets, and the ghost of Longfellow is called upon to guide students through the rewards and roadblocks of writing popular poetry. Poetic persona is demystified through Newton's law of gravity, while the countless permutations of punctuation are revealed with analysis of e. e. cummings and W. S. Merwin. The essays include the full text of the

poems discussed, and detailed, relevant writing exercises that allow students the opportunity to directly implement the strategies they have learned. While many advanced topics such as authenticity, discordant music, and prosody are covered, this highly readable volume is as user-friendly as it is informative. Offering a variety of aesthetics and approaches to tackling the issues of composition, Mentor and Muse takes poets beyond the simple stages of poetic terms and strategies. These authors invite students to explore more advanced concepts, enabling them to draw on the traditions of the past while at the same time forging their own creative paths into the future. Chosen as one of the Best Books for Writers by Poets & Writers magazine

frank o hara meditations in an emergency: Made in U.S.A. Sidra Stich, University Art Museum Berkeley, 1987-01-01 Made in U.S.A. takes a new look at American art of the 1950s and 1960s and shows us how American it was. This is a provocative study of those artists who appropriated everyday images from the world of mass media and suburban living and forced their viewers into a sometimes witty, sometimes bittersweet, confrontation with the realities of living in late twentieth-century America.

frank o hara meditations in an emergency: Joan Mitchell Patricia Albers, 2011-05-03 "Gee, Joan, if only you were French and male and dead." —New York art dealer to Joan Mitchell, the 1950s She was a steel heiress from the Midwest—Chicago and Lake Forest (her grandfather built Chicago's bridges and worked for Andrew Carnegie). She was a daughter of the American Revolution—Anglo-Saxon, Republican, Episcopalian. She was tough, disciplined, courageous, dazzling, and went up against the masculine art world at its most entrenched, made her way in it, and disproved their notion that women couldn't paint. Joan Mitchell is the first full-scale biography of the abstract expressionist painter who came of age in the 1950s, '60s, and '70s; a portrait of an outrageous artist and her struggling artist world, painters making their way in the second part of America's twentieth century. As a young girl she was a champion figure skater, and though she lacked balance and coordination, accomplished one athletic triumph after another, until giving up competitive skating to become a painter. Mitchell saw people and things in color; color and emotion were the same to her. She said, "I use the past to make my pic[tures] and I want all of it and even you and me in candlelight on the train and every 'lover' I've ever had—every friend—nothing closed out. It's all part of me and I want to confront it and sleep with it—the dreams—and paint it." Her work had an unerring sense of formal rectitude, daring, and discipline, as well as delicacy, grace, and awkwardness. Mitchell exuded a young, smoky, tough glamour and was thought of as "sexy as hell." Albers writes about how Mitchell married her girlhood pal, Barnett Rosset, Jr.—scion of a financier who was head of Chicago's Metropolitan Trust and partner of Jimmy Roosevelt. Rosset went on to buy Grove Press in 1951, at Mitchell's urging, and to publish Henry Miller, Samuel Beckett, Jean Genet, Jack Kerouac, Allen Ginsberg, et al., making Grove into the great avant-garde publishing house of its time. Mitchell's life was messy and reckless: in New York and East Hampton carousing with de Kooning, Frank O'Hara, James Schuyler, Jane Freilicher, Franz Kline, Helen Frankenthaler, and others; going to clambakes, cocktail parties, softball games—and living an entirely different existence in Paris and Vétheuil. Mitchell's inner life embraced a world beyond her own craft, especially literature . . . her compositions were informed by imagined landscapes or feelings about places. In Joan Mitchell, Patricia Albers brilliantly reconstructs the painter's large and impassioned life: her growing prominence as an artist; her marriage and affairs; her friendships with poets and painters; her extraordinary work. Joan Mitchell re-creates the times, the people, and her worlds from the 1920s through the 1990s and brings it all spectacularly to life.

frank o hara meditations in an emergency: Mad Men Gary R. Edgerton, 2010-12-18 Don and Betty Draper live in a picture-perfect world. He is a hard-living advertising executive - a 'mad man' - on the fast track. She's a Bryn Mawr graduate and former fashion model, now a suburban princess, mother of three children. If they've everything, why are they so unhappy? Why is their dream come true not enough? This book explores, analyses, celebrates the world of Mad Men in all its aspects, and includes an interview with its Executive Producer and an episode guide. Every few years a new television program comes along to capture and express the zeitgeist. Mad Men is now that show.

Since premiering in July 2007, it's won many awards and is syndicated across the globe. Its imprint is evident throughout contemporary culture, from features to fashions and online debate. Its creator Matthew Weiner, a former exec producer on *The Sopranos*, has created again compelling, complex characters, this time in the sophisticated go-go world of Madison Avenue through the 1960s, with the excessive drinking and smoking, as well as the playing out of the prejudices and anxieties of an era long neglected in popular culture. *Mad Men* is a zeitgeist show of the early twenty-first century, this book demonstrates, partly because its characters are an earlier, confused and conflicted version of ourselves, trying to make the best of a future unfolding at breakneck speed.

frank o hara meditations in an emergency: *Encyclopedia of the New York School Poets* Terence Diggory, 2015-04-22 Presents an alphabetical reference guide detailing the lives and works of poets associated with the New York Schools of the early twentieth century.

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