

The self is a thousand localities  
like a small nation—assembly required: borders and roads,  
armies, farms, small and large pieces of parchment. I stand by  
all the territories I have ever been, even as I can't  
remember them. I am a locum—ear to the emperor penguin, a banner ad  
blinking to the hoi polloi. Since I've become John Doe, I swear  
I can feel most objects with sixty digits  
instead of five. This makes me think  
of Lisette. Makes me miss her left collar bone. Her hips' wingtips.  
A train moans from a far hummock.  
Which reminds me that everyone I'll have to live without  
I must help to find a place within. Which is an act  
of granite will. A strain. A ditty.  
An exercise in utmost *beautility*.

— *American Amnesiac*  
Etruscan Press, 2013

Eric Raptosh Photographs

# Idaho Writer in Residence

**DIANE RAPTOSH** grew up in Nampa, Idaho, one of three children. A graduate of The College of Idaho, she earned her MFA at the University of Michigan.

Raptosh is now professor of English at The College of Idaho, where she holds the Eyck-Berringer Endowed Chair. She has published four collections of poems: *Just West of Now* (1992), *Labor Songs* (1999), *Parents from a Different Alphabet* (2008), and *American Amnesiac* (2013). Her work has appeared in more than 50 journals and 20 anthologies.

In 2013, she was selected by Boise's Department of Arts & History to serve one year as the city's first poet laureate.

Among the courses she teaches at The College of Idaho is "Prison Experience," a class in which students read prison-connected texts in sociology and literature. She says, "One of my goals is to raise awareness of the power of the written word for people on the margins: those, for example, who are in prisons, juvenile detention centers, and women's safe houses."

Raptosh is the mother of two daughters, one in graduate school and the other in junior high.



## Free Reading

DATE & TIME \_\_\_\_\_

LOCATION \_\_\_\_\_

SPONSOR \_\_\_\_\_

The Writer-in-Residence program is sponsored by the Idaho Commission on the Arts. The writer, appointed to a three-year term by the Governor, visits twelve communities around the state to give public readings and to meet with community groups.



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