

## **Event: Front Page Capsule**

[Creative Writing Reading

**Internationally acclaimed Korean poet, Kim Un**

*Sponsored by the MFA program*

*and the Department of English, along with*

*the Korean Studies Initiative, Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures & Korean Literature Translation Institute.]*

[November 23]

[7:00 pm – 8:30 pm, Public Reading (open to all)]

[Denney 311]

## **Full Article**

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### **[Kim Un:**

- Was born in Busan, South Korea, in 1973.

- Made a debut as a poet in the winter volume of the literary magazine *Poetry & Thoughts* in 1998.

- Published *A Breathing Tomb* in 2003.

- Published *The Giant* in 2005.

- Published *Let's Write a Novel* in 2009.

- Received “The Midang Literary Prize” & “Colleagues’ Choice Award for the Young Poet of the Year” in 2009.

- Lives in Seoul, South Korea at the moment.]

### **[About Kim Un and his poetry:**

A young poet already in the spotlight, Kim Un has been sedulously exploring the principles of the world, existence, and language. His poems dream of saying what cannot be articulated and communicating what

cannot be conveyed, devoted to an exchange as intimate as a secret language between lovers. In this endeavor, his poems are unrestricted by standard grammar, creating a free space for unimpeded rhetoric. The fundamental questions Kim raises in his poems are in the same vein as his radical explorations of language and the boundaries of poetry. Critics argue that Kim is a fundamentalist poet who often develops his idea of poetry like a philosopher of language. His poems offer readers a magnetism distinct from the beauty one typically expects of poetry.

In 2009, Un received “The Midang Literary Prize”, the most prestigious poetry prize in Korea, for his poem, “A Geometric Life.” The judges hailed the poem as a “happy marriage between reality and fantasy, intuition and reason.” *Let's Write a Novel*, his poetry collection published in the same year, won him the distinction of “Colleagues’ Choice Award for the Young Poet of the Year” for “going back to the event of the word itself and turning words into incidents, setting a milestone in Korean poetry.”]

