RESONANCES:
INTERNATIONAL WRITERS ON THE GREAT WORKS THAT SHAPED THEM

2:30-4:00 p.m. Thursday, May 3, 2012
Engelman Recital Hall, Baruch Performing Arts Center

Presented for the fifth consecutive year by the Great Works and Sidney Harman Writer-in-Residence Programs, Weissman School of Arts and Sciences, and the PEN World Voices Festival.

In "Why Read the Classics?" Italo Calvino writes, "The classics...exert a peculiar influence, both when they refuse to be eradicated from the mind and when they conceal themselves in the folds of memory, camouflaging themselves as the collective or individual unconscious." How does this "peculiar influence" resonate for writers around the world?

Gabriela Adamesteanu is a Romanian novelist and journalist who edited the influential political weekly 22 from 1991 to 2005. Her novels include Dimineata Pierduta (Wasted Morning), translated by Patrick Camiller, a psychological study of an elderly survivor of Romania's 20th century, which was censored when it first appeared in Romania in 1984.

Giannina Braschi is a prolific Puerto Rican poet, essayist and fiction writer whose works include Yo-Yo Boing!, the first novel to be written in Spanglish. Her most recent book, and her first written in English, is The United States of Banana, hailed by Mircea Cartarescu as "The best work of art on the subject of September 11 that I have experienced..."

Ib Michael is a Danish novelist and poet with an interest in Central American languages and cultures who has travelled widely in Latin America, China and Tibet. His work presents the reader with an expanded version of reality that includes myth and magic.

Laurie Sheck, currently the Sidney Harman Writer-in-Residence at Baruch, is the author of five books of poems, as well as the hybrid work A Monster's Notes, described in the Washington Post as "a baroque opera of grief, laced through with lines of haunting beauty and profundity," and nominated for the 2011 Dublin IMPAC Award.

John Brenkman, moderator, is Distinguished Professor of Comparative Literature and English at CUNY Graduate Center, and is currently Interim Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs at Baruch. His most recent book is The Cultural Contradictions of Democracy: Political Thought since September 11.

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