



DESCARTES' DEVIL ~ THREE MEDITATIONS



FRIDAY, APRIL 16TH, 2010
6:30 P.M.

CONVERSATION, READING AND BOOK SIGNING :

“DESCARTES' DEVIL: THREE MEDITATIONS”

DURS GRÜNBEIN
(AUTHOR)

MICHAEL ESKIN
(UPPER WEST SIDE
PHILOSOPHERS, INC.)

ABOUT THE BOOK:

In three beautifully wrought meditations on the import of René Descartes' legacy from a poet's perspective, Durs Grünbein presents us with a Descartes whom we haven't met before: not the notorious perpetrator of the mind-body-dualism, the arch-villain of Rationalism but the inspired and courageous dreamer, explorer, and fabulist. Uncovering the poetic foundations of Descartes' rationalism and, concomitantly, the poetic lining of the mantle of reason, Durs Grünbein shows us that reason is never more alive than when it is most poetic.

Durs Grünbein, one of the world's greatest living poets and essayists, has been the recipient of many national and international awards, including the Friedrich Nietzsche Prize, the Friedrich Hölderlin Prize, the Berlin Literature Prize, the Georg Büchner Prize (Germany's most prestigious literary recognition), and the Premio Internazionale di Poesia Pier Paolo Pasolini. His book *Ashes for Breakfast: Selected Poems* (translated by Michael Hofmann) was shortlisted for the Griffin Poetry Prize 2006. Durs Grünbein has published more than twenty books of poetry and prose, which have been translated into dozens of languages. He holds the Chair for Poetics and Artistic Aesthetics at the School of the Arts in Düsseldorf, Germany, and lives in Berlin, Germany.

Michael Eskin is the cofounder and Vice President of Upper West Side Philosophers, Inc. – Studio & Publishing, as well as the Vice President of SCALG, the Society for Contemporary American Literature in German. He has taught at the University of Cambridge and at Columbia University. His many publications on cultural, philosophical, and literary subjects include: *On Literature and Ethics: A Special Edition of Poetics Today* (2004); *Poetic Affairs: Celan, Grünbein, Brodsky* (2008); *Philosophical Fragments of a Contemporary Life* (under the pseudonym 'Julien David'; 2008); *The DNA of Prejudice: On the One and the Many* (2010); *The Bars of Atlantis: Selected Essays by Durs Grünbein* (2010; as editor).

THIS EVENT WILL BE IN ENGLISH



Upper West Side Philosophers, INC.
Yoga for the Mind®
Studio and Publishing

42 Washington Mews
New York, NY 10003
www.deutscheshaus.as.nyu.edu

