

“What a joy to see a major poet emerging from a hardly differentiated mass of contemporaries and taking the lead in the poetry of my language, a living proof that Polish literature is energy incessantly renewed against all probabilities.” — Czesław Miłosz on Adam Zagajewski, 1985

zell visiting writers series at the university of michigan

Adam Zagajewski

Adam Zagajewski was born in Lwów in 1945, a largely Polish city that became a part of the Soviet Ukraine shortly after his birth. His ethnic Polish family, which had lived for centuries in Lwów, was then forcibly repatriated to Poland. A major figure of the Polish New Wave literary movement of the early 1970s and of the anti-Communist Solidarity movement of the 1980s, Zagajewski is today one of the most well-known and highly regarded contemporary Polish poets in Europe and the United States. His luminous, searching poems are imbued by a deep engagement with history, art, and life. Zagajewski has authored *Eternal Enemies* (2008) and *Without End: New and Selected Poems* (2002), which was nominated for a National Book Critics Circle Award. Zagajewski's other collections of poetry include *Mysticism for Beginners* (1999), *Canvas* (1991) and *Tremor: Selected Poems* (1985). He is also the author of two books of essays, *Solidarity, Solitude: Essays* (1990) and *Two Cities: On Exile, History and the Imagination* (1995). He spends part of the year in Kraków, the city he lived in during the 1960s and '70s, and he regularly teaches in Chicago.

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