



The poets and poems in this anthology are representative of the diverse activity reverberating at the Cafe Le Metro on New York's Lower East Side. Being a center of poetry, rather than a school, Le Metro nurtures the most vital facet of the creative arts: the right and the opportunity to present the created without any form of censorship or pre-judgment. Le Metro not only has the importance of having completely open and permissive readings, but presents, one night a week, a feature reader. Each of the feature readers has either previously obtained recognition in the field of writing, or has shown definite, noticeable growth in that direction. Since the first of these readings in February of 1963, a random choice of writers that have made an appearance is Gilbert Sorrentino, Joel Oppenheimer, Diane diPrima, Gregory Corso, Denise Levertov, John Weiners, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, LeRoi Jones, Brion Gyson, William Burroughs, etc. The list could continue, and then be added to a similar list of prominent poets who frequently participate in the weekly open readings.

However, it is not the elite who profit through the Cafe Le Metro movement. It is the neophytes, shaping their thoughts and molding their voices, who profit mainly through the availability of associations with poets, such as Allen Ginsberg, who always manage to give the extra minutes asked of them.

Let it suffice to say that Le Metro offers to any person on any level what he comes for honestly, primarily because its patrons have made it that way and because its patrons would like to keep it that way.

-- Allen De Loach April, 1965