

“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

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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.

Sponsored by Helen Zell, the MFA Program in Creative Writing, and the Copernicus Endowment at the Center for Russian and East European Studies.

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