

Celebrated Italian Light Artist to Help NU Students Fight Off Chicago Winter Melancholy

This coming January, on five of the darkest and gloomiest evenings of the year, internationally known Italian light artist Marco Rotelli will bathe the façade of Northwestern University's Deering Library with one of his signature illuminations blending art and poetry.

Taking inspiration from the famous Dylan Thomas refrain "Rage, Rage Against the Dying of the Light," Rotelli's creation will celebrate the triumph of the human spirit over the forces of cold and melancholy. Lines from Shakespeare, Dante, Dickinson, and others will be projected onto the soaring façade of Deering Library every evening, 5 to 9 p.m., from Monday, January 13, through Friday, January 17. Inside Deering Library, on two evenings, Monday and Thursday, members of Northwestern's Acting faculty and students from Northwestern's Department of Theatre under the direction of Professor Linda Gates, Head of Voice, will perform passages from plays and poems chosen to both conjure up and be an antidote against the darkness, cold, and dank. After the performance, hot chocolate and popcorn will be served to everyone in the vaulted (and heated) Gothic halls of Deering Library.

Rotelli was invited to create this combination art installation-and-event based on the huge popularity of a similar project last March, when his work entitled WORDS delighted hundreds of Northwestern students and faculty. Project organizer and Associate University Librarian Jeff Garrett says, "Last year it was so beautiful, but it was over in the blink of an eye. This year, by repeating 'Rage Against the Dying of the Light' on five successive nights, no one will miss the opportunity to enjoy Marco's work." "Rage Against the Dying of the Light" will be visible to everyone passing in front of Deering Library, including commuters on their way home north along Sheridan Road.

Marco Nereo Rotelli, born 1955 in Venice, Italy, was the Winter 2013 Artist-in-Residence at the Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities. He is the creator of light installations all over the world, in Paris, Rome, New York, Santiago di Compostella, Jinan (China), and last summer at the Field Museum in Chicago. In an interview Marco Rotelli said of last year's Deering illumination: "What lasts is memory, memory working in the minds of many people. Anyone who participates in this event in any way will not forget it."

Sponsoring this year's Deering Library illumination are the Istituto Italiano di Cultura of Chicago along with Northwestern's Kaplan Institute for the Humanities, the Block Museum, and the Department of French and Italian, in addition to Northwestern University Library as the host.

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