

# THE POETRY OF HAFIZ

## The Possibility of Becoming too Happy

By Jay Fields

Speaking of the translated poems in his anthology *Love Poems From God*, Daniel Ladinsky writes: "I hope you will fall into this wine barrel (this book) and crawl out legally drunk, and get arrested for doing something that makes God proud of you, like being too happy."

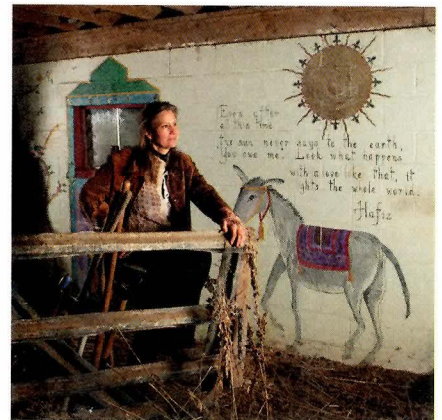
A particular version of this opportunity for happiness will present itself as part of Malaprops' poet series, February 18th, beginning at 7 P.M., when Mr. Ladinsky, reading from his most recent book, *A Year With Hafiz: Daily Contemplations*, joins Asheville poet Tracey Schmidt for a textured evening of lyric poetry and world music.

Accompanying the readings (and the potential of falling into happiness) will be Chris Rosser, a member of the acclaimed world music group Free Planet Radio, who will explore melodies on Indian and Turkish stringed instruments.

*A Year With Hafiz*, contains 365 poems by Hafiz, the fourteenth century Sufi master who has been described by poet Coleman Barks as holding "universes" and by writer Sylvia Boorstein as "magic tricks that cause the mind to blink" and replace "perceptions of woe with the reality of joy." Mr. Ladinsky, whose translations have a worldwide following, lives on the coast of South Carolina.

Tracey Schmidt is an Asheville-based photographer-turned poet. Her first book of poetry, *I Have Fallen in Love with the World*, currently has 22 five-star reviews on Amazon. On February 18, she will read her own poems. Ms. Schmidt has taught creativity and poetry at Julia Cameron's Taos Creativity Camp and is currently conducting workshops on both subjects upstairs at Montford Books (for information: [t.schmidt@mindspring.com](mailto:t.schmidt@mindspring.com)).

To purchase tickets in advance of the event, call 254.6734. The three artists will also appear at Queens College in Charlotte February 17th, and at The Bookshelf in Tryon February 19th.



Tracey Schmidt by a Hafiz poem mural in Mars Hill (mural by Kryz Crimi of Logosophia Books)

### Building a Shrine

BY TRACEY SCHMIDT

My life so far  
Has been like  
Trying to put a very large love  
Through a pinhole.  
I have tried to make myself  
Small enough to fit into this world.  
But finally the shell has rent in two-  
And the shrine of my being has emerged.

We are guided home on an invisible thread-  
One day the distance between our self and  
the hole  
Simply  
Disappears.

And then the love fits perfectly.

There is so much work to do in this world  
When we could simply choose  
To be ecstatically happy.  
To take rocks and driftwood and build an altar  
To all that is good inside of us-  
And to set our one shining life  
On fire.

Hafiz, translation by Ladinsky:  
One Regret  
One regret dear world  
that I am determined not to have  
when I am lying on my death bed

is that  
I did not kiss you  
enough.

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