"BIRTHPLACE WITH BURIED STONES"

MEENA ALEXANDER

BURIED STONES

Birthplace with

BY: MEENA ALEXANDER

Poet, Scholar, Essayist Distinguished Professor of English, PhD Program in English CUNY Graduate Center and Hunter College

IN CONVERSATION WITH: **ROBERT YOUNG**

Silver Professor; Professor of English, Comparative Literature, New York University

> NOVEMBER 1, 2013 6:30-8:30 Institute For Public Knowledge 20 Cooper Square, 7th Floor

With their intense lyricism, Alexander's poems convey the fragmented experience of the traveler, for whom home is both nowhere and everywhere. The landscapes she evokes, whether walking a city street or reading Basho in the Himalayas, hold echoes of otherness. Place becomes a palimpsest, composed of layer upon layer of memory, dream, and desire. There are poems of love and poems of war — we see the rippling effects of violence and dislocation, of love and its aftermath. The poems in *Birthplace with Buried Stones* range widely over time and place, from her native India to New York City. We see traces of mythology, ritual, other languages. Uniquely attuned to life in a globalized world, Alexander's poetry is an apt guide, bringing us face to face with the power of a single moment, its capacity to evoke the unseen and unheard.

> Co-sponsored by CUNY's Postcolonial Studies Group

Books will be available for purchase after the event, with a 20% discount Wine and cheese will be served