

CAN LITERATURE ENRICH MEDICAL PRACTICE?

A Dialogue with Iona Heath
and Maria Nadotti

MONDAY
2 NOVEMBER 2026

06.30
PM

FONDAZIONE SASSO CORBARO
BELLINZONA

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What can literature teach medicine about how to see, listen, and remain attentive to another person? Can reading help us understand illness not only as a clinical condition, but as a lived experience shaped by relationships, social circumstances, suffering, fear, and mortality?

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Free entry
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Taking Iona Heath's *John Berger: Ways of Learning* as its point of departure, this conversation explores the fertile ground between literature and medicine. For more than fifty years, Heath has read John Berger's work; for nearly twenty, she shared with him a friendship and correspondence that profoundly influenced her practice as a general practitioner in inner-city London. His writing opened new ways of thinking about attention, responsibility, justice, listening, and care.

In dialogue with journalist, essayist, and translator Maria Nadotti, the Italian editor and translator of Berger's work, Heath will reflect on what literature can bring to clinical practice, and on how stories, words, and images can transform the way we encounter illness and those who live through it.

An evening about a book, but above all about the ways in which reading can change how we see, listen, and care.

Iona Heath

General practitioner for over thirty-five years at the Caversham Group Practice of Kentish Town in London. She chaired the Ethics Committee of the British Medical Journal, to which she contributed regularly and served as President of the Royal College of General Practitioners. She studied the influence of the medical-industrial complex and the commercialization of medicine. She is the author of several books, including *The Mystery of General Practice* (1995), *Matter of Life and Death* (2008), and *In Its Own Image: Medicine and the Market* (2016).

Maria Nadotti

Journalist, essayist, and translator. Among her books are *Silenzio = Morte. Gli USA nel tempo dell'AIDS* (1994), *Sesso & Genere* (1996, 2022), and *Necrologhi. Pamphlet sull'arte di consumare* (2015). She is also the editor and translator of the work of John Berger, to whom she dedicated the 2021 podcast *For John B*. As early as the 1990s, she introduced the work of bell hooks to Italy, editing and translating key texts. She is the author of two medium-length films: *In Praise of Constancy* (2006) and *Under Truce, Gaza* (2009). Together with the Palestinian psychiatrist Samah Jabr, she wrote *Endless Trauma* (Feltrinelli, 2026).

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