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METROPOLITAN
PAVILION
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'WHO SHALL I SAY IS CALLING?' HEARTBREAK AND MYSTERY IN THE WORK OF LEONARD COHEN

In "Who By Fire" (1974), Canadian poet and songwriter Leonard Cohen (1934-2016) borrows the phrasing of a Yom Kippur prayer to pose a series of questions to God in front of the mystery of death.

This is just one example of how Cohen often asks the question that opens this year's Encounter theme—"What is happening to our humanity?"—and often asks it to a mysterious Other. Dialogue with this Other often marks his poems, novels, and songs, whether he is asking the "why" of suffering, laying out a broken heart, praising beauty, or recognizing mercy. Cohen's diligent craftsmanship often enables his audience to hear these things in particularly striking, new, and beautiful ways. This exhibit will accompany its visitors through Leonard Cohen's questions and illuminate his ways of bringing them to life.



EXHIBIT

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