

POETRY FEST

NOVEMBER 1 -2 , 2025

**A WEEKEND
TO INVIGORATE
AND INSPIRE
POETS OF ALL
TYPES**

CONTENTS

Schedule.....	1
Morning Craft Seminars.....	2
Panels.....	6
Afternoon Workshops.....	7
Evening Events.....	8
A La Carte Pricing.....	9
Weekend Passes.....	10
Contact Info.....	11

SCHEDULE

SATURDAY

November 1

**9:00 to
11:00 AM**

Craft Seminars
see p. 2

SUNDAY

November 2

Craft Seminars
see p. 4

LUNCH BREAK

**12:00 to
1:00 PM**

Panel
Poetry Church

Panel
Make Time, Not Money

**1:30 to
3:30 PM**

Afternoon Workshop
What Is the Language Using
Us For?

Afternoon Workshop
Using Cliche to Undo
Cliche

HAPPY HOUR

**4:30 to
6:00 PM**

Lyric Attentions
Reading and Conversation
with Heather Christle and
Elizabeth Robinson

MORNING CRAFT SEMINARS

SATURDAY, November 1

9:00 to 11:00 AM

Member: \$75

Nonmember: \$85

Lyric as Generative Loss

with **Dan Beachy-Quick**

We'll spend our hours discussing the mythic history of lyric practice, from the Homeric Hymn to Hermes that gives us the origin of the lyre, to Orpheus who uses the musical instrument to enter the underworld in hopes of rescuing his bride from death itself. We'll discuss short texts, pause to reflect and to write, and resume our conversation. The hope is to leave with a poem, or the resources for one, as well as gain some vision into lyric art's shadowy sources.

Crash Course to Sound

with **Alyse Knorr**

Did you know that vowels have pitch, like musical notes? Or that consonants have texture—harshness and softness? Or that free verse poems do have rhyme in them? Poetry is more like a song than a novel, and it's a genre that has always meant to be sung. This class will provide you with a crash course in the vowel and consonant scale, assonance, consonance, alliteration, and onomatopoeia. We'll use terminology from poetry, but prose writers are welcome to join as well, and the techniques are easily applied to any genre. Take this course if you want your writing to sing!

MORNING CRAFT SEMINARS

SATURDAY, November 1

9:00 to 11:00 AM

Member: \$75

Nonmember: \$85

Intense Emotions, Subtle Words

with **Joy Roulier Sawyer**

Poetry is the native tongue of passionate intensity. Yet how much...is too much...when it comes to expressing enormous, complicated emotions? What can we learn from poetic restraint and redirection? With several contemporary poets as examples, we'll write our own intense—yet subtle—poems.

How to Tell Time: Narrative in Poetry

with **Suzi Q. Smith**

While poetry doesn't require narrative, readers are often searching for it. In this course, we'll discuss time and movement in poetry, and the many tools that help us to "drive" a poem and determine what kind of time we are telling. Through reading, discussion, and generative prompts, we'll explore image, sound, rhythm, meter, juxtaposition, form, and to deepen our understanding of measuring, telling, and thinking about time in poems. We'll read excerpts from Gwendolyn Brooks, Chen Chen, Mathias Svalina, and more.

MORNING CRAFT SEMINARS

SUNDAY, November 2

9:00 to 11:00 AM

Member: \$75

Nonmember: \$85

Capturing the Subconscious—Lucid Imagery of Dreams as Truth in Poetry

with **Crisosto Apache**

Dreams captivate people, artists, and scientists with their mysterious nature. From ambiguous scenarios to everyday circumstances, dreams inhabit a rich space for poetic exploration. Poetry's ability to rest comfortably in ambiguity makes it the ideal genre to explore the wildness of our dreams. In this class, we'll revel in a dream's ability to spark wonder and serve as a tool for creativity. We'll explore the subconscious, where truths await, connecting us to the enigma of ourselves.

Poetry of the Visual—Visual Art and Ekphrastic Poetry

with **Matt Broaddus**

In this course, we'll consider how visual art inspires, influences, and transforms poetry. Ekphrasis, or the written description of visual art, is a classic way established poets have responded to visual art, and we'll look at examples such as John Keats' "Ode to a Grecian Urn." But poets have also used visual art in other ways, including recent examples of poetry comics, illustrated poems, and concrete forms. The goal of the course is for writers to create new poems that engage with or incorporate visual art.

MORNING CRAFT SEMINARS

SUNDAY, November 2

9:00 to 11:00 AM

Member: \$75

Nonmember: \$85

Get Surreal—Playing Games with the Weird

with **Emily Pérez**

Drawing inspiration from *A Book of Surrealist Games* by Alastair Brotchie, we'll dive deep into the silly and the surreal to wake up our poems. Like the surrealists, we'll explore generative techniques including question-and-answer, centos, and palindromes, and we'll experiment with automatic writing inspired by music. With out-of-the-box approaches, we'll break out of our usual habits and re-learn why play is an essential ingredient of creation.

The Psychogeography of Poems

with **Andrea Rexilius**

This seminar will examine the various ways in which place and psyche converse with one another in the poetry collections of Jamaal May (*Hum*); Alice Notley (*Descent of Alette*), Philip Metres (*Shrapnel Maps*), and Jennifer Foerster (*Leaving Tulsa*). We'll engage with a variety of poetic strategies to consider how a poem's landscape acts as a lens to examine human experience.

PANELS

12:00 to 1:00 PM

Member: \$25

Nonmember: \$35

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Poetry Church—The Joys of Poetry

Panelists: Dan Beachy-Quick,
Elizabeth Robinson, Suzi Q. Smith, and more

So much time is spent hemming and hawing about if poetry can matter. But we're over it: poetry matters. So rather than opine about why it doesn't matter that poetry has a smaller readership than say, Fourth Wing, our panelists are here to celebrate the joys of poetry. Why they write it, what they love about it, and what makes it such a special art form. You'll leave inspired and with a renewed sense of purpose as a writer, and maybe some good arguments for those poetry skeptics in your life.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2

Make Time, Not Money

Panelists: Emily Pérez and more

Unless you're extremely lucky, most poets are going to have to make money from something other than their writing. Gone are the days of patronage, so most of us are squeezing our writing between jobs and families and other adult responsibilities. So how do you keep it together and still find time to prioritize your craft? Our four very busy panelists will talk about how they're able to make time for their writing and where they're able to squeeze it in.

AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS

1:30 to 3:30 PM

Member: \$75

Nonmember: \$85

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1

What Is the Language Using Us For?

with **Heather Christle**

This craft talk will focus on strategies for collaborating with words as living beings. How do we make ourselves available to their arrival? How do we treat them when we meet? What do they desire? What do they hate? We'll look to possible clues from poets, writers, and critics who knew language before us, as well as theories nabbed from neuroscience and predictive coding. We'll not actually answer the question posed in the talk's title, which is borrowed from the Scottish poet W. S. Graham, but we'll marvel at the sensations (and writings) it can produce.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2

Using Cliche to Undo Cliche

with **Elizabeth Robinson**

In this seminar, we'll do all the things you are told not to do in making poems! Get sentimental? Employ overused words and images? Lean into rhyme and repetition? We'll review all the things we've ever been told are deadly to the creation of good poems—and then reclaim for fresh new works. Feel free to bring poems you've struggled to revise or simply generate entirely new poems. Expect absurdity, and expect startling and wonderful new writing to emerge.

EVENING EVENT

3:30 to 4:15PM: Happy Hour

4:15 to 5:45: Event

Member: \$20
Nonmember: \$30

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Lyric Attentions—An On-Stage Reading and Conversation with Heather Christle and Elizabeth Robinson

When poets orient their work towards a particular subject, no matter how mundane or profound, they work to show how language can make anything under its lens worthy of our attention. Poetry is uniquely capable of harnessing this power of attention, and how lucky we are as readers to have poets able to do so with such vulnerability. Please join Lighthouse in welcoming two poets whose most recent books light the way: Heather Christle—who is returning to her home genre of poetry after releasing two widely read memoirs—and Elizabeth Robinson—whose forthcoming book of poems comes from her six years working with the unhoused population in Boulder. Heather and Elizabeth will both read from their recent works, followed by a roaming onstage conversation that guarantees to surprise. Afterwards, they'll answer audience questions and sign copies of their books.

Heather Christle is the author of five poetry collections, most recently *Paper Crown*. She has also published two works of nonfiction: *In the Rhododendrons: A Memoir with Appearances by Virginia Woolf* and *The Crying Book*. Her work has appeared in *London Review of Books*, *The Nation*, *The New Yorker*, and *Poetry*. She teaches creative writing at Emory University.

Elizabeth Robinson is the author of several collections of poetry, including *Pure Descent*, the National Poetry Series winner, *Apprehend*, winner of the Fence Modern Poets Prize, and *On Ghosts*, a finalist for the *Los Angeles Times* Book Award in Poetry. She is included in the *2023 Pushcart Prize anthology* and the *2025 Best American Poetry*.

A LA CARTE PRICING

MEMBERS

NONMEMBERS

**Morning
Craft
Seminars**

\$75

\$85

Panels

\$25

\$35

**Afternoon
Workshops**

\$75

\$85

**Reading and
Conversation**

\$20

\$30

PASSES

Want the full Poetry Fest experience? Save on seminars, panels, and events with our weekend passes.



Member \$370 | Nonmember \$430

The Gold Pass includes all activities of the Fest: your choice of morning craft seminars each day; both panels; both afternoon workshops; Saturday's happy hour and evening event; and a copy of Heather Christle and Elizabeth Robinson's latest books.



Member \$200 | Nonmember \$245

For folks who aren't morning people, the Silver Pass gets you into all afternoon activities of the Fest, including both panels; both afternoon workshops; and Saturday's happy hour and evening event.



For those who can't spare a whole weekend, the Bronze Pass gets you access to one full day of the Fest.

Saturday Bronze Pass

Member \$180 | Nonmember \$215

- Your choice of morning craft seminar
- Panel: Poetry Church—The Joys of Poetry
- Afternoon Workshop: What is the Language Us For? with Heather Christle
- Evening Event: Lyric Attentions— An Onstage Reading + Conversation with Heather Christle and Elizabeth Robinson

Sunday Bronze Pass

Member \$160 | Nonmember \$185

- Your choice of morning craft seminar
- Panel: Make Time, Not Money
- Afternoon Workshop: Using Cliche to Undo Cliche

CONTACT INFO

For inquiries related to Poetry Fest

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Parking Map

