



Loft Mentor Series in Poetry and Creative Prose

Guidelines

The Loft Literary Center invites poets, fiction and creative nonfiction writers to apply to the 2011-2012 Mentor Series in Poetry and Creative Prose. This program offers advanced criticism and professional development opportunities to twelve writers: four each in the genres of poetry, fiction and creative nonfiction.

THE PROGRAM

Twelve emerging writers will be selected through anonymous competition to work intensively with six nationally acclaimed writers of prose and poetry. Three of the mentors will spend an extended period of time working with the entire group. In addition, winners in each genre meet with their respective mentors as well as have individual conferences. The other three mentors will come in for intensive weekends of craft seminars with the full group and individual manuscript conferences with the writers in their genre.

ELIGIBILITY

- Work must be in the genres of fiction, creative nonfiction or poetry.
- You may apply in more than one genre, but can only win in one. If you are applying in both fiction and nonfiction, you must submit different work samples.
- You must be a resident of Minnesota.
- You must not have published a book in the genres of fiction, poetry, or creative nonfiction.
- You may submit work previously published in magazines, journals, or anthologies.
- You must not be a full-time student in a degree-granting program.
- Participants who were in the 2009-2010 or 2010-2011 programs are ineligible.
- Members of the Loft board and staff are ineligible.

Winners are selected on the basis of anonymous manuscripts and receive a modest stipend to defray the costs of program participation (book purchases, child care, etc.). Winners are required to prepare for and attend all program-related meetings, seminars, readings, workshops, manuscript conferences, and social activities.

If you have questions about eligibility, please call program director Jerod Santek at 612-215-2586 or e-mail him at jsantek@loft.org. More information, including answers to frequently asked questions, is available on our Web site: www.loft.org.

THE MENTORS

All program dates are tentative and may be changed.

LESLIE ADRIENNE MILLER, SEPTEMBER 2011 – APRIL 2012

POETRY

Leslie Adrienne Miller is author of five books of poetry, *The Resurrection Trade* and *Eat Quite Everything You See* from Graywolf Press, and *Yesterday Had a Man in It*, *Ungodliness*, and *Staying Up For Love* from Carnegie Mellon University Press. A sixth collection, *Y*, is forthcoming from Graywolf in spring 2012. Professor of English at the University of Saint Thomas, in Saint Paul, Minnesota, she holds a Ph.D. from the University of Houston, an M.F.A. from the University of Iowa Writers' Workshop, an M.A. from the University of Missouri, and a B.A. from Stephens College



Residency dates: Residency will most likely take place on the following weekends: September 10-11, November 19-20, January 21-22, April 21-22. All participants should be available mornings/early afternoons of the Saturdays listed for a three-hour seminar. In addition, poets should be available on Sunday for a three-hour workshop.

JOHN HILDEBRAND, OCTOBER 2011 – FEBRUARY 2012

NONFICTION

John Hildebrand's nonfiction has appeared in numerous magazines, including *Harper's Magazine*, *Audubon*, *Sports Illustrated*, and *The Missouri Review*. He is the author of *Mapping the Farm: The Chronicle of a Family*, *Reading the River: A Voyage Down the Yukon*, and *A Northern Front: New and Selected Essays*. He teaches at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and divides his time between home and a cabin in northern Wisconsin.



Residency dates: Residency will most likely take place on the following weekends: October 1-2, October 29-30, December 3-4, and February 4-5. All participants should be available mornings/early afternoons of the Saturdays listed for a three-hour seminar. In addition, nonfiction writers should be available on Sunday for a three-hour workshop.

MARLON JAMES, DATES TO BE DETERMINED

FICTION

Marlon James was born in Kingston, Jamaica. His first novel, *John Crow's Devil*, was shortlisted for the Commonwealth Prize and was a finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Prize. His second novel, *The Book of Night Women*, received the 2010 Minnesota Book Award for Fiction. He is a professor of literature and creative writing at Macalester College and divides his time between Minnesota, New York, and Jamaica.



Residency dates: Sessions will be held over the course of Fall 2011 through Spring 2012, most likely meeting on four weekends. Exact dates will be determined by the time winners are notified.

DINTY W. MOORE, NOVEMBER 10–13, 2011

NONFICTION

Dinty W. Moore lives in Athens, Ohio, where he directs Ohio University's B.A., M.F.A., and Ph.D. programs in creative writing. His books include the memoir *Between Panic and Desire*, *The Accidental Buddhist*, *Toothpick Men*, *The Emperor's Virtual Clothes*, and the writing guides, *The Truth of the Matter: Art and Craft in Creative Nonfiction* and *Crafting the Personal Essay: A Guide for Writing and Publishing Creative Nonfiction*. He edits the internet journal *Brevity* and serves on the editorial board of *Creative Nonfiction* and is coordinating editor for W.W. Norton's Best Creative Nonfiction.

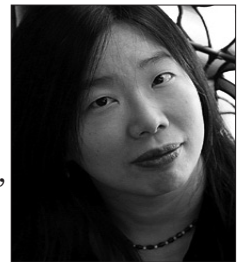


Residency dates: Residency will most likely take place November 10th through 13th, 2011. Participants should be available Thursday evening, all day and evening Friday, and most of the day on Saturday.

LAN SAMANTHA CHANG, DECEMBER 8–11, 2011

FICTION

Lan Samantha Chang is the author of the award-winning books *Hunger*, *Inheritance*, and *All Is Forgotten, Nothing Is Lost*. A 2008 Guggenheim Fellow, she lives with her husband and daughter in Iowa City, Iowa, where she is the director of the Iowa Writers' Workshop.



Residency dates: Residency will most likely take place December 8th through 11th, 2011. Participants should be available Thursday evening, all day and evening Friday, and most of the day on Saturday.

TRACY K. SMITH, MAY 17–20, 2012

POETRY

Tracy K. Smith is the author of three poetry collections: *Duende*, winner of the James Laughlin Award and the Essence Literary Award, *The Body's Question*, winner of the Cave Canem Poetry Prize, and *Life On Mars*. She is the recipient of the Rona Jaffe Foundation Writers' Award and a Whiting Writers' Award, and was a finalist for the NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literary Work. Smith is currently a protégé in the Rolex Mentor and Protégé Arts Initiative, and a member of the Creative Writing Faculty at Princeton University. She lives in Brooklyn, New York.



Residency dates: Residency will most likely take place May 17th through 20th, 2011. Participants should be available Thursday evening, all day and evening Friday, and most of the day on Saturday.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Follow the submission guidelines carefully and exactly. Entries that do not comply with the guidelines will be disqualified.

- You may submit one manuscript in each genre but may win in only one category. A separate cover sheet must accompany each submission (photocopies are acceptable).
- Submit 3 separate copies of a typed manuscript on 8 ½ x 11 white paper. Manuscripts should be single-sided. Pages should be consecutively numbered and each copy must be stapled in the upper left-hand corner. No paper clips, binders or unstapled pages, please.
- Do not put your name anywhere on the manuscript or anywhere within the text. If your name is part of your text, please use a pseudonym, leave a blank space, or cross out with heavy marker so that it is not legible.
- Include one copy of a brief anonymous statement of your goals for the program: what you would like to focus on, what you hope to learn during the program year.
- PAGE LIMITS:

Poets must submit 15 - 18 pages of poetry, with no more than one poem per page (poems longer than one page should be continued on subsequent pages). Pages must be consecutively numbered, 1 through 15 to 18 (page numbers may be handwritten).

Prose writers must submit 15 - 20 double-spaced pages, with margins of no less than one inch on all sides. If you are submitting sections of a book-length project, you may include a one-page synopsis as part of your page limit. If you are submitting several short pieces, all pages must be numbered consecutively, 1 through 15 to 20 (page numbers may be handwritten).

- Complete the required cover sheet and submit it with your manuscript (photocopies are acceptable). Please do not staple your cover sheet to your manuscript.
- Enclose one copy of a brief biographical statement. This does not count towards your manuscript page limit and should not be attached to your manuscript. The biographical statement does not need to be anonymous.
- Applicants will know of their status by mid-August 2011. Winners will be notified by phone. All others will receive an e-mail regarding their status.
- Address entries to Loft Mentor Series, The Loft Literary Center, Open Book, 1011 Washington Ave. S., Suite 200, Minneapolis, MN 55415. Please indicate the genre in which you are applying (poetry, fiction, or creative nonfiction) on the outside of the envelope.
- We are unable to make changes of any kind to your submission once it has been received.
- We are unable to return your manuscripts; please retain copies of your work.

DEADLINE

- All entries must be received by Wednesday, June 1, 2011; **this is not a postmark deadline!** Hand-delivered entries will be accepted in the Loft offices until 5 p.m. that day. In order to ensure a fair competition process, we cannot make exceptions to the deadline.
- Winners will be notified by mid-August 2011. Please be certain to include your contact information for summer if it is different from your current address.

For more information about the Loft, the program and the mentors, as well as other opportunities for writers, please visit our Web site at <http://www.loft.org>.

The Loft Mentor Series in Poetry and Creative Prose is made possible through the support of the Jerome Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, and member contributions.