



Loft Mentor Series in Poetry and Creative Prose Guidelines

The Loft Literary Center invites poets, fiction and creative nonfiction writers to apply to the 2010-2011 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 genre in which you are applying.
- 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 2008-2009 or 2009-2010 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 Loft Literary Center

Suite 200, Open Book, 1011 Washington Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55415
www.loft.org

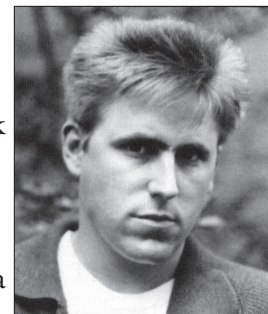
The Mentors

All program dates are tentative and may be changed.

C.J. Hribal, November 2010

Fiction

C.J. Hribal is the author of the novels *The Company Car*, which received the Anne Powers Book Award, and *American Beauty*, and of the short fiction collections *Matty's Heart* and *The Clouds in Memphis*, which won the AWP Award for Short Fiction. He also edited *The Boundaries of Twilight: Czecho-Slovak Writing from the New World*. He has held Fellowships from the NEA and from the Bush and Guggenheim Foundations. He teaches at Marquette University, and is a member of the fiction faculty at the Warren Wilson College MFA Program for Writers.



Residency dates: Residency will most likely take place November 4th through 7th, 2010. Participants should be available Thursday evening, all day and evening Friday, and most of the day Saturday.

Patricia Weaver Francisco, October 2010–April 2011

Nonfiction

Patricia Weaver Francisco lives, writes and teaches writing in Minneapolis. She is the author of *Telling: A Memoir of Rape and Recovery* (HarperCollins), which won the Minnesota Book Award. Her published work also includes *Cold Feet*, a novel (Simon&Schuster); *Village Without Mirrors*, a collection of lyric essays, with photographer Timothy Francisco (Milkweed Editions), and the plays, *Sign of a Child* and *Lunacy*. Her work has been awarded grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Bush Foundation, and the Playwright's Center, as well as a Loft-McKnight Award of Distinction. She is a member of the faculty of the MFA Program at Hamline University.



Residency dates: Residency will most likely take place on the following weekends: October 9th and 10th, 2010; January 22nd and 23rd, February 12th and 13th, April 9th and 10th, 2011. All participants should be available mornings/early afternoons of the Saturdays listed for a three-hour seminar. In addition, nonfiction writers should be available Sundays for a three-hour workshop.

Jonis Agee, dates to be determined

Fiction

Jonis Agee was born in Omaha, Nebraska and grew up in Nebraska and Missouri, places where many of her stories and novels are set. She was educated at The University of Iowa (BA) and The State University of New York at Binghamton (MA, PhD). She is Adele Hall Professor of English at The University of Nebraska—Lincoln, where she teaches creative writing and twentieth-century fiction. She is the author of thirteen books, including five novels—*Sweet Eyes*, *Strange Angels*, *South of Resurrection*, *The Weight of Dreams*, and *The River Wife*—and five collections of short fiction—*Pretend We've Never Met*, *Bend This Heart*, *A .38 Special* and *a Broken Heart*, *Taking the Wall*, and *Acts of Love on Indigo Road*. She has also published two books of poetry: *Houses* and *Mercury*.



Residency dates: Sessions will be held over the course of Fall 2010 through Spring 2011, most likely meeting on four weekends. Exact dates will be determined by the time winners are notified.

Toi Derricotte, March 10th–13th, 2011

Nonfiction

Toi Derricotte was born in Hamtramck, Michigan, in 1941. Her books of poetry are *Tender* (1997), winner of the 1998 Paterson Poetry Prize; *Captivity* (1989); *Natural Birth* (1983); and *The Empress of the Death House*

(1978). *The Black Notebooks*, her literary memoir (W.W. Norton, 1997), won the 1998 Anisfield-Wolf Book Award for Non-Fiction and was a *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year. Her essay, "Beginning Dialogues," is included in *The Best American Essays 2006*, edited by Lauren Slater.

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



Kristin Naca, October 2010–February 2011

Poetry

Kristin Naca was raised in northern Virginia and has made her home in many cities across the U.S., over the past two decades. She now resides in Minneapolis and teaches creative writing at Macalester College. Prior to moving to the twin cities, Naca made her home in San Antonio, Texas, where she worked as co-coordinator for the Macondo Writers Workshop, an organization in which she has been a longtime member. Her book of poems, *BIRD EATING BIRD*, was selected for the National Poetry Series mtvU Prize in 2008 and appears with Harper Perennial. She has been a writer-in-residence at Macondo's Casa Azul and at Hedgebrook in Whidbey Island, WA. Her poems have appeared in *Indiana Review*, *Prairie Schooner*, and *Octopus Magazine*.

Residency dates: Residency will most likely take place on the following weekends: October 23rd and 24th, November 13th and 14th, 2010; January 29th and 30th, February 26th and 27th, 2011. 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.



E. Ethelbert Miller, May 19–22, 2011

Poetry

E. Ethelbert Miller is a literary activist, the author of 11 collections of poetry and the editor of numerous anthologies. He is the board chairperson of the Institute for Policy Studies (IPS). He is a board member of The Writer's Center and editor of *Poet Lore* magazine. Since 1974, he has been the director of the African American Resource Center at Howard University. Mr. Miller is the former chair of the Humanities Council of Washington, D.C. and a former core faculty member of the Bennington Writing Seminars at Bennington College.

Residency dates: 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 cover sheet on the back of these guidelines 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.
- If you wish to be notified that your manuscript has been received at the Loft, please enclose a self-addressed stamped postcard.
- Winners will be notified by phone. All applicants will be notified of their status by e-mail no later than August 15, 2010. Winners will be posted on the Loft's Web site in August 2010. Winners will be notified by phone, whether or not they include an SASE. All others will be notified only if an SASE was enclosed with the entry.
- 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 Friday, April 30, 2010 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 August 15, 2010. 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 and our individual donors.