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Adult Arts Programs

2018 Writers Retreat Course Descriptions

Participants, please review the course descriptions below and select only one course through the registration link under the program "description" tab on the previous page.

(Extra)ordinary Content - Patricia Ann McNair

For writers of all genres, this workshop will guide participants to identify and use their most compelling material to create new work and reinvigorate ongoing projects. Drawing from memory, imagination, and observation, writers will discover their own extraordinary content. Writing activities will combine each writer's unique material with a variety of ways of telling, structure, and form, in order to make work that resonates. Prompts will encourage the exploration of emotional veracity, the role of specificity as a means to create universality, subtext and surface narrative, among other things. Whether a writer is creating imagined new worlds or writing autobiographical pieces, prose or poetry, these explorations will feed the muse.

Persons of Interest: Character Development in Prose - Eric Charles May

In both fiction and nonfiction, readers yearn to see how the events of a story affect the characters (real or imagined) involved. What is the impact? Why does it matter? For writers working in either fiction or nonfiction, the key to deeply developed characters is understanding how to present those characters on the page, in ways that are interesting enough to hold our own and our readers' attention. This class will study fiction and nonfiction examples that demonstrate how events (plot) affect characters, and then we will generate new writing based on prompts that will help us develop engaging characters of our own.