

Literature Camp 2022

Speakers and Topics

For more information or to register, go to thecurator.org/litcamp.

Why I Am a Poet | Claudia Lehman

Through story and poetry, a writer tells us about the influences and life experiences that shaped his or her poetry.

What Books Should Everyone Read by the Time They Are 21? | Kyle Lehman

And why should they read them? This class will be an introduction to and discussion of the more accessible side of classical literature. I will discuss the books that have shaped my life and welcome you to talk about the books that have shaped yours.

The Importance of Encountering the World Through an Interpretive Structure | Obi Martin

How does one make sense of a material world dominated by scientism, a discursive world dominated by critical theories, and a history dominated by religion, politics, and mythology? This lecture gestures towards the possibility of frame-making capable of holding it all together.

Avoid These Ten Mistakes in Your Poetry | Lynn Michael Martin

We'll look at some common reasons poems don't work or are rejected from publication, and easy ways to fix them. If we have time, we'll wrap up with some tried and true ways to make a good poem better.

Faith in the Void: The Devotional Poetry of Denise Levertov and Vassar Miller | Joshua Nisley

We will read and explore selections from two relatively obscure devotional poets of the 21st century: Denise Levertov (1923-1997) and Vassar Miller (1924-1998). Both poets wrestle deeply with questions of faith and doubt in their work—Levertov from her experience converting from agnosticism to Christianity later in life, Miller from a lifetime of pain and disability caused by cerebral palsy. Read together, they offer piercing insight into the paradoxical fullness and emptiness of lived faith.

What to Do With the Terrifying Blank Page | Anita Yoder

An idea simmers in the back of your mind but when you come to the blank page, the idea freezes. Come to find ways to approach that terrifying blank page!

Why Art? | Kyle Lehman

In this talk, we consider why we do and should care about the arts: literature, poetry, music, visual art, etc. What value does human creativity have? How can we love God and our neighbor through the arts?

Critiquing Your Writing

Bring up to 500 words of your own original work (poem or prose). You'll sit down with peers and an experienced editor to receive constructive criticism of your composition. You'll also get to read others' writings and give feedback to them. *Tip: Less is more. If you want to get the maximum value out of the time, bring between 10 and 20 lines of your writing.*

More Sessions

- Other speakers for this year are Nicolette Polek and Conrad Martin.
- Poetry will be read live in the interims.
- Times of worship and singing will be interspersed throughout the weekend.