

Writefest

FICTION



ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR:

Adrienne Perry grew up in Cheyenne, Wyoming, the daughter of a rolling stone from Southern California and a mother whose family homesteaded outside of Gillette, Wyoming. Adrienne earned her MFA from Warren Wilson College, serves as the current editor of *Gulf Coast: A Journal of Literature and Fine Arts*, and is a Kimbilio Fellow at the University of Houston. Adrienne is currently at work on a novel and a collection of short stories. An excerpt of her story "Red Desert" was translated by Jean Guiloineau and appears in the French literary journal *Siècle 21*. An excerpt of her forthcoming novel is forthcoming from *Tidal Basin Review*.

ACTING OUT OF CHARACTER: PUTTING THE "MYSTERY OF PERSONALITY" TO USE

This craft-based workshop blends close critique of students' short stories, class discussion, and warm-ups designed to enliven our imaginations and writing. While critique will be our primary focus, the workshop will also explore the ways in which characters' personalities— their ways of being, seeing, thinking, and acting—serve as catalysts for surprising change and discovery within a text. As part of this exploration, we will consider Flannery O'Connor's idea of the "mystery of personality," asking what aspects of our characters' personalities remain enigmatic to us and yet feel "right" in the story. By studying those beautiful incongruities in short stories by Alice Munro, James Baldwin, and others, we will see how this mystery informs characterization, setting, action—all aspects of a story.

Key to our exploration will be taking a close look at our characters to uncover their mystery. Participants are asked to submit a 7-10 page story for critique. Much of each day will be devoted to close reading and discussion of students' stories.

As with the other workshops, we'll join in on the Thursday night reading, which is a time to celebrate each other and strut our stuff! The goal of this workshop is to give participants a framework for re-envisioning their characters and thus breathing new life to existing drafts and future work.

FEBRUARY 22ND-25TH
MON-THURS 9AM-12PM
SILVER STREET STUDIOS
STUDIO #: TBA
ARTIST: TBA

BY WRITESPACE