

WRITING WORKSHOP · SIXTEEN SESSIONS

The Personal Essay & Memoir

The craft of writing what happened

Memoir is not diary and it is not confession. It is the craft of shaping remembered experience into a made thing that a stranger can read. This workshop moves through the tradition (Augustine, Montaigne, Baldwin, Didion, Karr, Gornick) and gives writers weekly, generative prompts that keep the pen moving. Discussion is craft-first, always kind, always specific.

SIX REPRESENTATIVE SESSIONS

1. Augustine and Montaigne: the essay as inquiry
2. James Baldwin: the essay as witness
3. Joan Didion: the essay as reckoning
4. Mary Karr and the tonal risk of memoir
5. Vivian Gornick: the situation and the story
6. Beginnings and endings — how to open and close

FORMATS · ALL CAN BE ADAPTED TO YOUR CALENDAR

Full series: Sixteen weekly sessions of 90 minutes
Workshop: Four to eight sessions, shaped to the venue's calendar
Single talk: One 60–90 minute lecture on a chosen theme
Delivery: In person, on Zoom, or hybrid

INSTRUCTOR · JAMES F. MULHERN

Kirkus-starred novelist · Oxford Writing Fellow · Professor Emeritus of English

Give Them Unquiet Dreams — Kirkus Best Book of 2019. Pushcart Prize nomination. Founder, Silver Current Press.

TO BOOK OR ASK QUESTIONS

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