

Writer-to-Writer Spring 2008 Mentorships

Deadline to Apply: February 8, 2008

Anya Achtenberg (fiction/memoir)

DISCOVERING THE UNLIVED LIFE:

WRITING INTO THE MYSTERY OF YOUR CHARACTERS

The work of character development is central to *discovering* the real story, rather than *imposing* a story onto our characters. Full development of character in story work is not separate from the real work we do in the world, that of continually crossing borders—internal as well as external—with openness and knowledge, compassion and respect. For our characters to unfold their truths in their full dignity or brokenness, their astonishing beauty or cruelty, we must work to understand their deepest yearnings in a way that often goes beyond their own ability to articulate them.

In this mentorship, each participant will agree to “live with” one or two characters for the duration of the mentorship, although new characters may emerge, and new dimensions open of other, perhaps less central, characters. We will work to deepen our ability to bring the power of authentic beings into our writing, and extend our range to include characters we may dislike or fear, characters that puzzle or fascinate us, as well as those with whom we identify. We will challenge ourselves to go beyond our preconceived notions, our projections of our own points of view, our societal and cultural biases, our fear and lack of knowledge, into understanding the lives of others in our global community, in our own neighborhood or family.

We will go beyond the back story, beyond what a character has lived up to the moment that we meet them. An unlived life is hidden within the life each character must live to get by. You will explore your character’s internal terrain, a land of yearning bordered by frustration, overwork, social pressures, forgetting, distractions, and violences, large and small, yet charged by the deep human desire for expression and connection, for fulfillment of the individual and social self in creativity and community. We will look at these evocative and emotional issues in our discussions and in the illuminating work of diverse writers. We’ll work in far-reaching but focused writing explorations to cross boundaries that not only free our writing, but deepen our understanding of, and respect for, the worlds and characters we write about.

Sherry Quan Lee (poetry)

Bookmaking: Writing to Save Your Life

What does the map of your life look like? Are there stop signs, detours, back roads, freeways, and tunnels? Do you travel one particular road over and over again? Are you writing that one story over and over again? Does your collection of stories need closure? Is closure possible?

Memoir can be the stories remembered and made sense of as you chart the map of your life. Memoir can be the connection, the collection of those stories. Memoir can be your stories written in poetic form. Memoir can be poetry enhanced with pictures, and other visual materials.

In this mentorship, we will explore the healing power of poetry as memoir. Initially, we will examine the stories that navigate your life in order to discover the theme of your memoir. Your theme will be your writing prompt to gather more material. We will discuss poems belonging in your book, but emphasis will be on overall theme, organization, format, and production. This mentorship is for poets (who may sometimes write prose) interested in completing a chapbook or manuscript draft.

Anya Achtenberg's recently completed novel, *More Than the Wind*, was excerpted in *Harvard Review*; her novella *The Stories of Devil-Girl* has been released on CD; and her second book of poetry, *The Stone of Language*, is a finalist in 5 competitions. Her fiction has received awards from *Zoetrope: All-Story*, *New Letters*, Asheville Fiction Writers Workshop, Raymond Carver Story Contest, and others. Achtenberg has been a teacher at New York University; School of Visual Arts; Springfield College; Hamline University; University of Minnesota's Split Rock Arts Program; University of New Mexico's Honors Program and Taos conference; The International Women's Writing Guild; Center for Contemporary Arts; Word Harvest; National Hispanic Cultural Center; Leaven Center; and The Loft. Her private clients are completing books, publishing, and winning prizes. She's back in Minnesota after 2 decades. For more information, see www.anyaachtenberg.com

Sherry Quan Lee, author of *Chinese Blackbird*, approaches writing as a community resource and as culturally based art of an ordinary everyday practical aesthetic. Quan Lee is the Program Associate for the Split Rock Arts Program summer workshops and the Online Mentoring for Writers Program at the University of Minnesota where she also earned her MFA in Creative Writing. Recently retired from teaching Creative Writing at Metropolitan State University, she now hopes to complete her second book, *How to Write A Suicide Note: Serial Essays that Saved A Woman's Life*. She was a former curator of the monthly Women of Color Readings at Patrick's Cabaret sponsored by Intermedia Arts. Fall, at Intermedia, she taught Stories that Save Lives: an interdisciplinary workshop for women of color. Her blog is [Women of Color: writing](http://www.womenofcolorwriting.com). And her Web site is <http://www.tc.umn.edu/~leex065/>.



Intermedia Arts Literary Programs
Create. Engage. Inspire. Change.
www.intermediaarts.org

About Writer-to-Writer

Writer-to-Writer is an adult mentorship program that gives emerging and established writers the opportunity to advance to their next level of artistic development. *Writer-to-Writer* creates intimate relationships between artists; participants meet regularly throughout the semester, with one established writer mentoring four to six emerging writers. Mentors act as artistic catalysts and partners, providing each mentee with artistic feedback and professional guidance. Each *Writer-to-Writer* session culminates in a public reading and reception in which mentees and mentors read from their bodies of work.

Spring 2008 Program Schedule

Writer-to-Writer runs for approximately 12 weeks each spring and fall; participants are selected based on work samples and an artistic statement. After an initial gathering, mentor groups meet for a total of 16-hours according to a self-determined schedule. In addition, mentors meet individually with each mentee for two 30-minute sessions.

February 2008

8: DEADLINE TO APPLY!

March 2008

8: Initial Gathering at Intermedia Arts— 1PM; Mentorship begins—approximately 2-hrs every other week (dates, times and locations determined by mentor and mentees)

April 2008

(Mentorship continues)

May 2008

(Mentorship continues)

June 2008

7: Final Retreat at Intermedia Arts— 4PM; Mentorship ends
9: Public Literary Reading at Intermedia Arts— 7PM

Tuition

In order to keep the program accessible to all writers, we offer our mentorships according to the sliding fee schedule below. Partial scholarships and/or payment plans based on financial need are also available. Unless you have made other arrangements, full payment is due upon registration.

Sliding Fee Schedule

Annual Income	Member	Non-Member
Up to \$25,000	\$133	\$143
\$25,000 to \$35,000	\$211	\$221
\$35,000 to \$45,000	\$289	\$299
\$45,000 to \$55,000	\$367	\$377
Over \$55,000	\$419	\$429

For more information, please contact our Literary Programs Manager:

Julie Bates
612.874.2815
Julie@Intermediaarts.org

Application Checklist

Don't forget to enclose ALL of the following materials with your application!!
Incomplete applications will not be processed.

Application Cover Page (1-pg max)

Bio and/or Curriculum Vitae

This program is for intermediate/advanced writers. Please include a summary of your literary experience and skills. This includes: education, teaching experience, publications, awards, honors, grants, fellowships, etc. Make sure to include dates on all of the publications you include.

Artistic Statement (1-page max):

Write a 1-pg statement addressing where you believe your writing is, the challenge(s) you are currently facing, what you would like to achieve with this mentorship, with which of the mentors you want to work, and why.

Writing Sample (10 pages max):

Poetry—submit a maximum of 10 pages.

Do not put more than one poem or more than one column of poetry on a page.

Poems that are longer than one page must be continued on subsequent pages.

Poetry may be double or single-spaced.

Prose—submit a maximum of 10 double-spaced pages.

Margins should be no less than one inch on all sides.

Guidelines:

- Your name must ONLY appear on your cover page and bio/CV. Your name may NOT appear on your writing sample or one-page artist statement.
- Applications will not be returned.
- You may only apply to work with ONE mentor per session.
- Please do not staple any part of your application.
- The work you create in this program must NOT be used for any degree or diploma.
- You may not have published more than two novels or full-length collections of poetry.

Deadline to Apply: February 8, 2008

Note: THIS IS NOT A POSTMARK DEADLINE.

Applications must be received by 5PM.

Mail, email or deliver your application to:

Intermedia Arts

Attn: Writer-to-Writer

2822 Lyndale Ave S, Mpls MN 55408

info@intermediaarts.org

Application Cover Page

Name (First, Last): _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email: _____

Daytime Tel: _____

I am applying to work with (check only one):

_____ Anya Achtenberg _____ Sherry Quan Lee

List the title of each of your writing samples here (attach an additional page if necessary):

****How did you hear about this program?** _____

Demographics: Nobody likes to be put into little boxes, but collecting demographic information helps us to know if we are reaching writers from a variety of different social, ethnic and cultural backgrounds. This information is confidential, and will NOT affect your application status. Please let us know a little bit about yourself (below). THANK YOU!!

Age	<input type="checkbox"/> 21-30	<input type="checkbox"/> 31-40	<input type="checkbox"/> 41-50	<input type="checkbox"/> 51-60	<input type="checkbox"/> 61+	
Ethnicity	<input type="checkbox"/> European	<input type="checkbox"/> African	<input type="checkbox"/> Native American	<input type="checkbox"/> Asian/Pacific Islander	<input type="checkbox"/> Chicano/Latino	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
Sexual Preference	<input type="checkbox"/> GLBT	<input type="checkbox"/> Hetero-Sexual	<input type="checkbox"/> Other			
Annual Household Income	<input type="checkbox"/> Under \$25K	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25-35K	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35-45K	<input type="checkbox"/> \$45-55K	<input type="checkbox"/> Over \$55K	

Apply now for an Intermedia Arts membership and receive a \$10 member discount on tuition!

YES! I want to become a member of Intermedia Arts!

I am paying by: _____ check (enclosed) _____ VISA _____ MasterCard

Card # _____ **Expiration Date** _____

Name as it appears on card: _____

Signature: _____

Membership Type: _____ \$40 individual _____ \$60 household _____ \$25 student