



THE GEOGRAPHY OF THE POEM Week of June 27

*The crooked path to my old home
has been deserted...*

*Far off, the beacon flares blaze up—
Chariots and weapons flood the eastern pass.*

*How long is one man's time on earth?
How long must the life of a wanderer last? --Tu Fu*

This workshop will reveal how landscape shapes language and how our poems reflect the ground we walk on. Whether you've lived in one farmhouse your whole life or move to a new city every year, the purpose of this week is to explore the places we inhabit – literal and metaphorical. Navigating the geography of our imagination, we will stretch our experience as well as language and discover how poems create a sense of belonging. In a time of transience and upheaval, we can redefine our notion of “home” – wherever we are. Using poems already created and work generated during this workshop, we will edit rigorously and hone our language to the bare essentials—to live lean and travel light. All are welcome here, the novice as well as the experienced poet.

TEACHING YOUR PROSE TO SING Week of June 20

“The imagination is like the drunk man who lost his watch, and must get drunk again to find it.”-- Guy Davenport

Like poetry, literary non-fiction opens the reader to an ‘aha’ experience. Whether you are writing about art, fly-fishing, a trip to Tibet, or family history, what distinguishes the literary essay from run-of-the-mill journalism is its music, its disparate connecting chords. Using some work already completed and writing generated in the workshop, we’ll learn to trust the details, weave them in concert, and discover a larger imaginative meaning – surprising ourselves as well as our audience. This workshop – for the novice and advanced writer alike – will help you cultivate voice, tune in to the “ear” of language, and find a shape for your unique story.

POEMS: LOST AND FOUND Weekend June 19-20

*O my love, where are they, where are they going
The flash of a hand, streak of movement, rustle of pebbles.
I ask not out of sorrow but in wonder. --Czeslaw Milosz*

The things we lose often return to us in different forms. Your mother's laugh, the vegetable garden, the way the light hits the piano in the afternoon. The past can be transformed by language – and, in turn, can transform you. Whether you've lost your car keys or your sense of peace in the world, this workshop will explore the notion of "found" as well as "lost." (Found words and phrases are frequently the stuff of poem-making.) Using work already created and poems generated during the weekend, we will also examine poetic forms and wrestle with what it means to be "found, the joy of "finding" one's voice. Both novice and experienced writers are invited since the workshop is designed not only to expand your facility with language, but also stretch your ability to regain -- and transfigure -- what you think has disappeared.