

Write Into Art: Creative Writing Inspired by Visual Art

Presented by Mary Hall Surface

Discover how visual art can inspire creative writing and how writing can offer a powerful way to experience art. Mary Hall Surface, popular Smithsonian Associates instructor, founding instructor of Washington DC's National Gallery of Art's Writing Salon, Kennedy Center National Teaching Artist, and 6-summer faculty member of Harvard's Project Zero Classroom offers 16 "write into art" workshops, each focusing on an essential element of writing. 90-minutes each, interactive via chat and an end-of-workshop open dialogue, these online workshops engage participants in close looking, word-sketching and imaginative responses to diverse prompts. Workshops can be presented singly or in a selected sequence. www.maryhallsurface.com.

Character: Uncovering Complexity

Meet 17th century Dutch artist Judith Leyster through her *Self-Portrait* as you probe how details help create rich, compelling characters.



Setting: The Power of Place

Step inside 20th century African America artist Hale Woodruff's *Georgia Landscape* as you explore the literal and metaphorical role of setting in writing.

Dialogue: Spoken and Unspoken

Give voice to the characters in 20th century American artist Mary Cassatt's *The Boating Party* as you experiment with crafting effective dialogue.



Story: Arcs of Action

Dive into 20th century African American artist Hughie Lee-Smith's *Confrontation* as you imagine multiple narratives from a single source.

First Person: Monologues and More

Give voice to the figures in *The Mother and Sister of the Artist* and to the painting's artist, 19th century French artist Berthe Morisot.



Memoir: Memory and Metaphor

Take inspiration from 20th century African American artist Romare Bearden's *Tomorrow I May Be Far Away* to mine your memories and personal metaphors.

Poetry: Words as Image

Experiment with diverse poetic forms in response to 20th century American artist Georgia O'Keeffe's shell paintings, including the spiraling *Shell No. 1*.



Perspective: Inside and Out

Discover how differently narratives unfold when told from shifting points of view, inspired 20th century Hungarian-American artist Lily Furedi's *Subway*.

Impact: Tone and Mood

Create atmosphere and evoke emotion in your writing, inspired by two works by 20th century French artist Henri Matisse, including *Open Window*, *Collioure*.

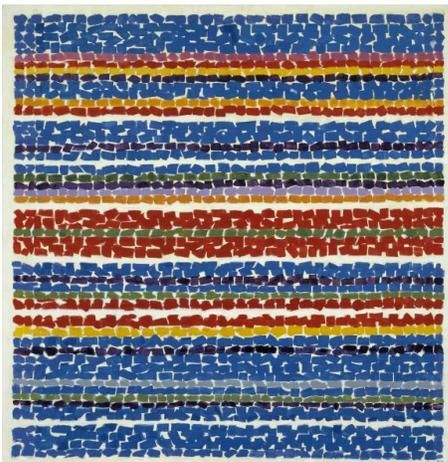


Place: Layers Unveiled

Take inspiration from Japanese-American artist Kenjiro Nomura's *The Farm* to explore setting as told and untold story.

Time: Flashbacks, Fast-Forwards and Foreshadows

Experiment with timeline in your writing inspired by Antonio Martorell's *La Playa Negra I (Tar Beach I)*.



View: From Above

Experiment with diverse poetic forms and reflections in response to 20th century African American artist Alma Thomas's colorful compositions, including *Light Blue Nursery*.

Character II: Discover Dimensions

Take inspiration from the self portrait of turn-of-the-20th century French artist Suzanne Valadon to imagine and write multi-dimensional characters.

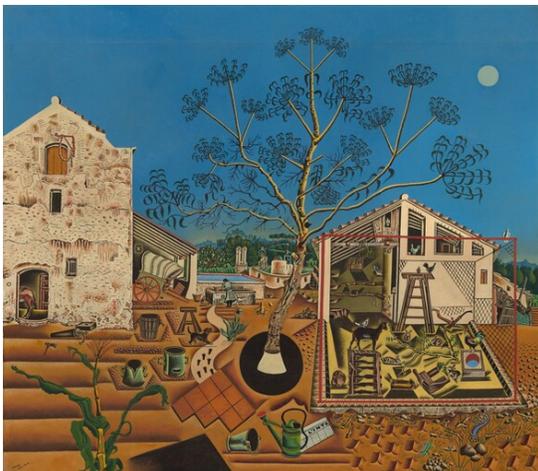


Setting II: Explore Place and Time

Step inside 20th century photographer Berenice Abbott's *Pennsylvania Station* to explore how setting can generate plot, character, and theme.

Story II: Imagine Possibilities

Dive into 20th century artist Edward Hopper's *People in the Sun* to construct multiple narratives from a single source.



Memoir II: Delve into Identity

Take inspiration from 20th century Catalan artist Joan Miró's *The Farm* to explore how place can shape our identities.

Responses from Workshop Participants in “Write into Art” Series, Smithsonian Associates, November 2021:

Loved the three Mary Hall Surface programs I've attended so far. I'm a professional author, but she has really pushed my skills and shown me new ways of looking at art & writing.

I am astonished at the speed with which I engage in Mary Hall's writing schemes. I have an MFA in Writing and two of her classes are worth more than my entire degree. I have always wanted to be an artist, though coloring outside the lines was not valued in the 1950s. With Mary Hall, I paint with words.

Mary Hall is a national treasure; how fitting then that the Smithsonian offers so many of her classes!

She never ceases to amaze -- I have taken over 15 of her classes and I learn something new each time.

Surface is an extraordinary teacher.

Mary Hall is ideal for these online events. I am signed up for her Dec. and Jan. ones as well.

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