

Writer's Eye 2023

Key Dates and Information

We're excited to welcome visitors back into our galleries for the 37th year of Writer's Eye. This year, we invite you to engage with the museum's annual Writer's Eye competition through virtual and in-person docent-led tours, self-guided tours, and by viewing our Spotlight Talks on YouTube.

Tuesday, August 1

Tour Scheduling Begins

To schedule a virtual or in-person Writer's Eye tour, complete the Tour Booking Form at: <https://TheFralin.formstack.com/forms/we2023tour>

Tuesday, September 5

Spotlight talks posted to Youtube

Short, narrated videos about each Writer's Eye selection, including visual analysis and information about the artist.

Wednesday, September 6

5-7:30 | Teacher Preview Party

Join us for our annual Writer's Eye Teacher's Preview Party. Discover the 2023 selections with tours and activities. Refreshments provided.

Tuesday, September 12

Virtual and in-person tours begin

September - November

Drop-in Tours

September 16th **3-4pm** and October 8th **3-4pm**
October 21st **1:30-2:30pm** and November 4th **1:30 - 2:30pm**

Saturday, October 14

12-3 | Creative Writing Workshop (High School)

High school students are invited to join us for a creative writing workshop lead by UVA Creative Writing instructors and Fralin educators. Register here:
https://TheFralin.formstack.com/forms/writingworkshop_hs_23

Saturday, October 21

11-1 | Creative Writing Workshop (University/Adult/Public)

Public creative writing workshop (open to all ages) lead by UVA Creative Writing instructors and Fralin educators. Register here:
https://TheFralin.formstack.com/forms/writingworkshop_23

Friday, November 3

Last day of tours

Last day for virtual and in-person docent-led Writer's Eye tours.

Friday, November 10

Entries due

We will only accept submissions electronically again this year. Entries are due by 11:59 pm. Please submit using the form below:
<https://thefralin.formstack.com/forms/we23entryform>

January 2024

Winners announced

March 2024

Writer's Eye Celebration

Winners will be invited to read their work during a reception in the museum.

What is Writer's Eye?

We invite you to participate in Writer's Eye 2023, the 37th annual literary competition organized by The Fralin Museum of Art at the University of Virginia. This ekphrastic writing competition—challenging writers of all ages to create original poetry and prose inspired by works of art—was introduced by docent Carole Armstrong and Valerie Morris in 1986 and has become the museum's flagship educational program. Visit our website below for more information and resources.

<https://uvafralinartmuseum.virginia.edu/program/writers-eye-2023>

What is ekphrasis?

Both visual art and creative writing are forms of expression that give voice to the human experience, and poets have used visual art as inspiration for centuries. The word ekphrasis is a direct transcription from the Greek "ek", meaning "out of", and "phrasis", meaning "speech" or "expression," and originally applied to verbal description of the visual aspects of a real or imagined object or work of art. Homer's description of Achilles' shield in Book 18 of the *Illiad* is the earliest recorded example of ekphrastic writing. Over time, the concept of ekphrasis evolved from simple description of an artwork to any poetic expression or narrative inspired by a work of art. Published in 1820, John Keats' "Ode on a Grecian Urn" is one of the most famous examples of ekphrastic writing. More recently, poet Jan Greenberg has talked about her belief in, "the power of art to inspire language," and author and educator Georgia Heard called language, "the poet's paint." Thus, ekphrastic writing is an ancient tradition that continues to inspire writers today!

Competition Info

Compositions inspired by selected artworks can be submitted in the categories of Prose or Poetry for Grades 3-5, 6-8, 9-12, and University/Adult.

Writer's Eye 2023 includes seven artworks from The Fralin's permanent collection and one local mural.

Perhaps the most important part of what we do here at the museum involves the constant evaluation and re-evaluation of the way we do things. We continue to learn and work toward making the museum and all of its programs more diverse, equitable, inclusive, and accessible. In that spirit of learning and growth, we've decided this year to experiment with a new way of selecting winning entries. Whereas in the past we have selected 1st, 2nd, 3rd place, and honorable mentions in each category, this year we are stepping away from the hierarchical ranking system and instead selecting 5 winning entries in each category to be printed in the anthology. All winners will be awarded an honorarium of \$100.