

Writer's Eye 2024

Key Dates and Information

We're excited to welcome visitors back into the galleries for the 38th 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.

Wednesday, August 14

Tour Scheduling Begins

To schedule a virtual or in-person *Writer's Eye* tour, complete the *Writer's Eye* Tour Booking Form on our website.

Tuesday, September 3

Spotlight talks posted to Youtube

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

Thursday, September 5

4:30-7pm | Teacher Preview Party

Join us for our annual *Writer's Eye* Teacher's Preview Party. Discover the 2024 selections with tours and activities. Refreshments provided.

Tuesday, September 10

Virtual and in-person tours begin

September - November

Writer's Eye Drop-in Tours

Sept 15, Oct 6, Oct 20, Nov 10 | 2pm-3pm

Saturday, September 21st

3 - 5pm | Creative Writing Workshop

Public creative writing workshop (open to all ages 16+) led by UVA Creative Writing instructors and Fralin educators. Visit our website for more information and registration.

Saturday, October 19th

3 - 5pm | Creative Writing Workshop

Public creative writing workshop (open to all ages 16+) led by UVA Creative Writing instructors and Fralin educators. Visit our website for more information and registration.

Friday, November 15

Last day of tours

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

Sunday, November 17

Entries due

We will only accept submissions electronically again this year. Entries are due by 11:59 pm. Please submit using the form on our website.

<https://thefralin.formstack.com/forms/we24entryform>

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* 2024, the 38th 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 for more information and resources.

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!

Teacher Fellows

This year we are pleased to announce our inaugural *Writer's Eye Teacher Fellows*. This fellowship program, open to teachers in Charlottesville City and Albemarle County Public Schools, aims to provide teachers with the resources and support they need to practice and advocate for arts integration in their schools. This year's Teacher Fellows are Bridget Drain-Watters (Buford Middle School), Ryan Trott (Burnley-Moran Elementary), Faith Vandever (Walker Upper Elementary School), and Cianna Washburg (Buford Middle School).

Competition Info

Writer's Eye 2024 includes eight artworks from The Fralin's permanent collection, and two photographs on loan to the museum.

Compositions for *Writer's Eye* 2024 can be submitted in the categories of Prose or Poetry for grades 3-5, 6-8, 9-12, and University/Adult. Entries for grades 3-8 are judged anonymously by panels of local artists and educators. This year, our high school and adult entries will be judged by *Writer's Eye* Fellows and MFA graduates, Kaitlin Airy and MaKshya Tolbert.

Winners are honored in the spring, and five winning entries from each category will be published in the annual *Writer's Eye* anthology. To learn more about the competition, please visit our website at:

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

Five winning entries will be selected in each category to be printed in the anthology, and winners will each be awarded a prize of \$100.