

Any Color You Like: Inspiration in the Twenty-First Century (Michelle Mitchell-Foust, Donald Revell, Ann Huang, Stephen Yenser, Ralph Angel)

Philosopher Hélène Cixous says writing is a “preknowing and not knowing...” Like painting, “[writing] occurs where blindness and light meet.” Naturally the two mediums can cross-pollinate. In this panel five poets acknowledge the importance of the conversation amongst poets and painters. These poets find inspiration by examining the work of Joan Miró, Anselm Kiefer, René Magritte, Agnes Martin, and Giorgione in a discussion of inspiration in the twenty-first century.

Applying for an Individual NEA Creative Writing Fellowship (Mohamed Sheriff, Jessica Flynn, Amy Stolls, Katy Day)

Want to know what the National Endowment for the Arts fellowships are all about? Staff members from the NEA’s Literature Division discuss and advise on all aspects of the program, including how to submit an application, how winning poets and prose writers are selected, and the impact the fellowships have had on the literary landscape. Plenty of time will be allotted for questions.

Arab American Caucus (Randa Jarrar, Farid Matuk)

This will be a town-hall style meeting, creating a much needed space for Arab American writers to build and connect within AWP. We invite established and emerging writers, editors, students, scholars, and organizers, and aim for the caucus to facilitate networking and exchange on Arab American literary endeavors, craft, publishing, poetics, and praxis. Our caucus seeks to empower and center the voices of underrepresented Americans with roots in the Arab world, including Black Arabs, queer and trans Arabs, differently bodied Arabs, and stateless Arabs. The last 30 minutes of the caucus will be an open mic.

Arab/Indigenous: Palestinian, Indigenous North African, & Arab/Native Art (Ahimsa Timoteo Bodhrán, Lisa Suhair Majaj, Micaela Kaibni Raen, Katherine Toukhy, Rasha Abdulhadi)

Recognizing the importance of constellating Arab diaspora art in multiple ways, including through immigrant/refugee and pan-Asian/African lenses of experience, this panel argues for a creative, critical, pedagogical, and publishing re-evaluative centering of Indigenous Arab realities, by placing in dialogue womanist/queer/trans Palestinian, Indigenous North African, and mixed-race Arab/Native American artists, activists, and editors. An Indigenous re-orientation and dismantling of Orientalism.

Art and Identity: How Race, Faith, & Sexuality Shape Us (Laura Joyce Davis, Vernon Keeve, Nina LaCour, Shanthi Sekaran, Zahra Noorbakhsh)

However we identify, race, faith, and sexuality shape us and the art we create. What are the unspoken rules when writing about these charged, foundational issues? Can art change the way we think about them? Are they off limits for those without firsthand experience? Five writers of fiction, poetry, and comedy discuss the intersection of art and identity as it pertains to people of color, the LGBTQ community, and faith backgrounds including Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim, Christian, and atheist.