

POETRY WORKSHOP

Instructor: Miranda Field

Tuesdays, 2:30-4:45pm
January 10- March 28 (12 weeks)
\$500.00

Upper West Side apartment.

The best contemporary poems are luminous, compelling, strange, and strangely inviting arrangements of highly charged language. Poems are *made* things—these curious living patterns are fabrications, no matter how natural or unmediated they seem. They're brought to life through a combination of conscious strategies and intuitive moves. We will explore all aspects of the process, and work together on two stages of writing: generating raw material, and revising it into finished poems.

Specific suggestions for generating material will be supplied as often as they're needed—sometimes in the form of prompts, and sometimes in the form of 'mini-apprenticeships' or mirrorings/ventriloquisms of others' (published) poems and (established) poetic voices/styles. But, where prompts—and other tricks to ignite poems—are used, we will bear in mind that "*writing unfolds like a game that inevitably moves beyond its own rules, and finally leaves them behind.*" (Foucault)

Revision will be a process of negotiating the awkward twists and turns of early (and successive) drafts, adding and removing features and obstacles, until space opens up—mysterious but clear, charged with meaning, music, intelligence, and feeling—inviting the reader in.

We'll make full use of the traditional workshop model of reading and feedback. But in the in-between flotsam of a workshop session—random comments and conversations sparked among minds peculiarly attuned to the poetic—ideas and inspiration ferment like nobody's business. We'll make even more of this!

Workshop will be limited to a maximum of 8 students.

For details, or to register, please contact: mirleaf@gmail.com
(or visit my website at www.mirandafield.com)