

## Writer's Eye 2023

## Key Dates and Information

We're excited to welcome visitors back into our galleries for the 36th 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 online Tour Booking Form at:

**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

**Saturday, October 14**

### 12-3 | Creative Writing Workshop (High School)

High school students are invited to join us for a two-part creative writing workshop lead by UVA Creative Writing instructors and Fralin educators. Registration:

**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. Registration:

**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 through our online form found at:

**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.

## 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.

For Writer's Eye 2023 we have selected 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.