V39.0819.001 Writers in New York: Poetry (craft seminar)
Wednesday & Friday (June 2 & June 4); Mondays & Wednesdays thereafter
Instructor: Matthew Rohrer
mr167@nyu.edu
Office: Lillian Vernon Creative Writers House,
58 West 10th Street, Room 311
212-998-8816

THE GENERATIVE PROJECT WORKSHOP

This course will introduce students to the idea of writing as a long-term process. We will look at poems by a wide range of poets who engage in self-generating projects; we will look particularly at the city as a generative element in those projects; and we will look at this phenomenon as a way to approach our own writing. There will be daily readings that examine different methods of generating writing, including poems by Matthea Harvey, Eileen Myles, Frank O’Hara, Vasko Popa, Percy Bysshe Shelley, and many others. The class will consist of in-class and take-home writing exercises based on the readings for the week, as well as student presentations of the readings to the class, and discussion thereof. By the end of the course, students will have developed their own extended, generative project to carry them into the Unknown.

Requirements

Your grade will be based on:

- In-class participation, including attendance. This is 75% of your grade. This means being an active participant in our discussions and doing the presentations and writing exercises.

- Turning in a brief written response to the readings for each class.

Required Textbooks:

- Matthea Harvey Pity the Bathtub Its Forced Embrace of the Human Form, Greywolf
  ISBN-10: 1882295269

- John Yau, Borrowed Love Poems, Penguin
  ISBN-10: 0142000515

- Ted Berrigan, The Sonnets, Penguin
  ISBN-10: 0140589279
• David Cameron, Flowers of Bad, Ugly Duckling Presse  
  ISBN-10: 1933254262

• Jen Bervin, Nets, Ugly Duckling Presse  
  ISBN-10: 0972768432

• Mary Ruefle, A Little White Shadow, Wave  
  ISBN-10: 1933517034

• Ronald Johnson, Radio s, Flood Editions  
  ISBN-10: 0974690244

• Frank O’Hara, Lunch Poems, City Lights  
  ISBN-10: 0872860353

• Jon Woodward, Rain, Wave  
  ISBN-10: 193351714X

• Coursepack available from NYU Bookstore

The Presentations

The presentations will serve as a way for us to collect our thoughts, and organize our thinking, about the poems before we discuss them. The presentations should help us all to contextualize the elements of craft represented by the readings and help us to read like writers.

• Students will form small groups and compare notes on the readings
• Each group will be responsible for presenting the reading to the class
• Spirited discussion will follow!

Schedule –Have the following books read, and your written response ready to hand in, on the day indicated, below:

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<th>CLASS</th>
<th>READINGS</th>
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<td>Zapruder (Noelle poems)/Galvin (heart)/Noelle (sestina)/Berrigan poem w/explanation</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Technique: Harvey/Shelley (west wind)/Yau (vowel sonatas and title poem)</td>
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