



29<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Members

### ONLINE POETRY WORKSHOP

Some years ago the Literary Events arm of Crowborough Arts put on some popular writing workshops: landscape poetry and autobiography and since then quite a few people have put in requests for us to put on more. It now seems the perfect time to get back to writing given that we are all at home and (although I'm not convinced about this yet) have a bit more time on our hands. I thought we could start with a poetry workshop on *Ekphrastic Poetry* or, more simply put, poetry inspired by art.

About twelve years ago I attended an excellent six week course on *Ekphrastic* poetry run at the National Gallery. It was tutored by two poets, Carole Satyamurti (who sadly died last year but in addition to writing poetry also taught sociology at the University of East Anglia) and Gregory Warren Wilson (who has an active career as an international violinist and has published four volumes of poetry.) It was an inspirational course and I have happy memories of the quality of the tutoring and the pleasure in wandering the galleries and writing poems inspired by paintings. Those memories are still so vivid and satisfying that I thought I would like to share what I learnt with those of you who might be interested.

For the time being the workshop will use email communication although we will also be able to use the Crowborough Arts website to show finished work and possibly we could organize a comments forum or even social media to chat live. As well as this, you will be able to contact me for guidance either by phone, or email, or those who are happy to do so, live on Skype or FaceTime . We could also use a buddying system for you to share your work and ideas with another member. However, to begin with it will consist of a guided exploration of the topic with discussion of examples of poems by well-known and some less well-known poets along with writing exercises. If you want to, you will be able to submit your work for tutor and / or peer review. We might even, at the end of the workshops, put together an in-house anthology of our work or even organize an evening of readings. PTO

As soon as I get a list of people who wish to join, I'll check out what people's IT skills are like and that will show us whether we can do some live sessions. I'm afraid that we will need to limit the numbers of people attending the workshop to **fifteen** given that it will involve quite a bit of interaction and I am involved with various other projects at the present time. So if you are interested please contact me **by email** at : [chj.self@gmail.com](mailto:chj.self@gmail.com) by **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April** giving me your name and telephone number.

I propose to start the course on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2020** and will aim to send out material weekly.

I look forward to hearing from you very soon.

With warm wishes

**Christine Roberts**

Literary Events Group

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