Connect & Create Series

Art/Write: Poetry of Place
with Lehigh University Libraries

April 21, 2020
Program will begin at 7:00 pm ET
Connect & Create Series
Art/Write: The Poetry of Place

7 pm  Welcome from Stacie Brennan, Curator of Education
7:05-7:10 pm  Discuss theme: Place & Home
7:10-7:55 pm  Examples of writing and art
Group prompts and Response
7:45-8 pm  Group Share
8 pm  Wrap-up

*Please note that this program will be recorded and may be published on the LUAG website.

** Please be aware that there has been a nationwide increase in disruptions to virtual events. Some of these disruptive incidents could include offensive language or imagery. If this occurs, the meeting host may need to end the meeting and reschedule. Thank you for your patience as we work through these challenges.
“Home is memory, home is history, home is where you work.”

-Toni Morrison
at the salon

sorry baby
says Miss Annette as she pulls
my head by my hair, through plastic,
and sees my jaw flex,
and muscles in my neck that had been invisible.

soon I am in a house
no, I am in an ocean
no, I am plasma in the sun
no, I am an atom in a particle accelerator
and time is so slow for me. I don’t know it.
and before me the whole universe is here
like the closing scenes of Kubrick:
vast and flowing and
did you know glass is a liquid?
it’s moving before your eyes but too slow to see.
that’s what this is.
I am in the universe and it is my hair.
each strand arched electric and perfectly still
before my eyes, dancing, crooked,
arranged just so in the air
like the last humming chord of a song.
I watch them from inside. one is white,
twisting amidst the others like a bolt of quiet lightning
she tugs some more and now I am a veiled woman.
I see the world from here, and the world is dark brown,
and the world keeps me modest, hidden.
from without, I am not a face, but a lace curtain

as over a woman betrothed
as over the window of a solemn neighbor
as over a passing hearse
I sit a little taller, for one so hidden
must be of consequence.
she combs again and I see again:
the dryers, the flickering television
the OPEN sign through which men sometimes peer,
eyes finding gaps in the neon as they pass in the street.

Home as Self: at the salon by Eve Ewing (2017)
John Koch
American, 1909-1978

Music Critic, c. 1940

Oil on canvas
Ralph L. Wilson Endowment Purchase
LUP 56 1005
Describe a moment in the past where you experienced deep reflection.

- What brought on the moment?
- Where were you?
- What was around you? (Sight, smell, sound, etc)
- What did you see in your mind’s eye?
49. WHO ARE YOU AND WHOM DO YOU LOVE?

A back room at the A-1 Sweet Café, on the Southhall Broadway. My father and I are drinking chai, and eating chaat, while we wait for my mother to finish her grocery shopping at Dokal and Sons. We order extra onions and vinegar, and eat without speaking. I am sixteen years old. Nine or ten years later, when I am walking through a redwood grove on the coast of northern California, it is my father, eating steadily and ferociously, in the semi-darkness of a dhaaba in north-west London, who seems remote.

The distances between my body and the bodies of the ones I love: grow. They are limited by coasts. I have a few questions to ask, but I do not know how to break the growing silence. I breathe in the salty mist, walk back along the wild, shifting edge of everything.
Walker Evans
American, 1903 - 1975

Bethlehem Graveyard and Steel Mill. Pennsylvania (From Saint Michael's Cemetery), 1935

Gelatin silver print from nitrate negative, printed 1982
LUF 82 1037
Ralph L. Wilson Endowment Purchase
Describing community: “Who are you, and whom do you love?”

- What/who are the parts of your community that are most meaningful to you?
- Use sensory details to describe what those places are like.
- What is the distance between you and your loved ones?
What She Left Behind

a lampshade embroidered with blue string; a fan stretched like skin, gone brittle and slit; one jar with a lightbulb taped to its lid; three twigs tied together and strapped to a box; a broken hem; a bagful of salt; mornings of fog and late hours amassing in a pile of stillness; their bed frame; their bed sheets; the shelf he hung for her, a cabinet crowded with bowls, cups, jars, vases, empty vessels, amputations—
Michael A. Smith
American, 1942-2018

Broward County, Florida
Series, No. 19, 1989

gelatin silver chloride contact print
LUF 12 1069
Gift of Patricia Schnitzer
Describe your home in artifacts.

- Write a list of the things in or around your home that are most meaningful to you. What do they look like (color, size, condition, etc)? Think like an archeologist.
- Consider how those things indicate presence and/or absence.
Share your writing with us!

Email Jasmine at jasmine@lehigh.edu to be featured in our first digital chapbook.

Follow us on social media @LUArtGalleries and @LehighLibraries
Questions?

Please type your questions in the chat box.
Thank you!

Visit our website at www.luag.org for more great resources and join us for these upcoming programs:

Tues., April 28, 5:30 pm: *Art in Dialogue: In the Belly of the Architect* with Anthony Viscardi & Tim Higgins

Sat., May 16, 10-11 am: LUAG@Home Family Workshop

Follow us on social media @LUArtGalleries and @LehighLTS