



P.O. Box 3401—Gettysburg PA 17325
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IN PRAISE OF THE ESSAY: PRACTICE & FORM

Date: 24 April 2010
Location: The Atrium at Fordham University's Lincoln Center Campus

Tentative Schedule[†]

- 9:15-10:15: Registration; book sales & signings; coffee and mingling
- 10:15-12:00: **Session I: The Practice of the Essay**
Welcoming Remarks & Introductions
Keynote Speaker: Robert Atwan, series editor, *Best American Essays*
Featured Speaker: Vivian Gornick
Featured Speaker: Jerald Walker
Featured Speaker: Brian Doyle
- 12:00-1:15: **Lunch; book sales & signings**
- 1:15-2:15: **Session II: Innovations in Form**
Introductions
Featured Speaker: Lia Purpura
Featured Speaker: Emily Grosholz
- 2:15-3:15: **Panel Discussion: Innovations in Teaching the Essay**
Discussion will focus on innovative practices for teaching the writing and reading of essays in undergraduate, graduate, and postgraduate venues. Panelists: Paul Lisicky (New York University), Mimi Schwartz (Richard Stockton College), Michael Steinberg (Pine Manor College), Elizabeth Stone (Fordham University), Linda Underhill (Chatham University).
- 3:15-3:45: **Tea**
- 3:45-5:00: **Panel Q&A: The State of the Essay in the Publishing Marketplace**
A panel of editors from literary and trade presses, literary journals, and mainstream media will answer participant questions related to trends in publishing the essay. Panelists include editors from *Best American Essays*, *Creative Nonfiction*, Essay Press, *Fourth Genre*, Graywolf Press, the *New York Review of Books*, *Portland Magazine*, and elsewhere.
- 5:00-5:15: Closing Remarks

[†] A finalized schedule will be available online at www.welcometablepress.org several weeks prior to the symposium.



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ABOUT THE PRESENTERS & PANELISTS

Practice & Form (Sessions I and II)

Robert Atwan is the series editor of *Best American Essays*, which he founded in 1985. He has edited five college anthologies and textbooks, seven poetry anthologies, and a short story collection. His work has appeared in the *Atlantic Monthly*, the *Iowa Review*, the *Kenyon Review*, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *New York Times*, *River Teeth*, and elsewhere.

Brian Doyle is the author of seven works of nonfiction, including *The Grail*, *The Wet Engine*, and *Leaping: Revelations & Epiphanies*, as well as two collections of “proems.” A novel, *Mink River*, is forthcoming in fall 2010. His work has appeared in the *Atlantic Monthly*, *American Scholar*, *Gourmet*, *Harper’s*, *Orion*, the *Times of London*, and elsewhere. He is the editor of *Portland Magazine*.

Vivian Gornick is the author of many books, including *Women in Science*, *Fierce Attachments*, *The Situation and the Story*, *Approaching Eye Level*, and *The End of the Novel of Love*. Her essays and articles have appeared in the *Nation*, the *New Yorker*, the *New York Times Book Review*, and elsewhere. She teaches at the New School.

Emily Grosholz is the author of five books of poetry, most recently *Feuilles/Leaves*; three books of philosophy; and the editor of essay collections on Simone de Beauvoir, W. E. B. DuBois, Maxine Kumin, and the philosophy of mathematics. Her work has appeared in *Best American Essays*, *Hudson Review*, *Prairie Schooner*, and elsewhere. She teaches at Pennsylvania State University.

Lia Purpura is the author of two collections of essays, *On Looking* and *Increase*, and several collections of poems, including *King Baby*, *Stone Sky Lifting*, and *Brighter the Veil*. Her work has appeared in *AGNI*, the *Georgia Review*, *Orion*, the *New Republic*, the *New Yorker*, the *Paris Review*, and elsewhere. She teaches at Loyola University and the Rainier Writing Workshop MFA Program.

Jerald Walker is the author of *Street Shadows: A Memoir of Race, Rebellion and Redemption*. His essays have appeared in *Best African American Essays*, *Best American Essays*, *Brothers: 26 Stories of Love and Rivalry*, *Chronicle of Higher Education*, the *Iowa Review*, *Missouri Review*, *Mother Jones*, *North American Review*, *Oxford American*, and elsewhere. He teaches at Bridgewater State College.

Innovations in Teaching the Essay (Panel Presentation)

Paul Lisicky is the author of *Lawnboy* and *Famous Builder*. A new novel, *Lumina Harbor*, is forthcoming. His work has appeared in *Boulevard*, *Flash Fiction*, *Hotel Amerika*, *Open House*, *Ploughshares*, *Short Takes*, and many other anthologies and magazines. He teaches at New York University.

Mimi Schwartz is the author of five books, including *Good Neighbors*, *Bad Times*, *Echoes of My Father’s German Village*; *Thoughts from a Queen-sized Bed*; and, with Sondra Perl, *Writing True: the Art and Craft of Creative Nonfiction*. Her work has appeared in *AGNI*, *Creative Nonfiction*, the *Missouri Review*, the *New York Times*, and elsewhere. She is Professor Emerita at Richard Stockton College.

Mike Steinberg is founding editor of *Fourth Genre: Explorations in Nonfiction*. He has written or co-written five books, including a memoir, *Still Pitching*, and, with Robert Root, an anthology, *The Fourth Genre: Contemporary Writers of/on Creative Nonfiction*. He is writer-in-residence in the Solstice/Pine Manor College low-residency MFA program.

Elizabeth Stone is the author of *Black Sheep and Kissing Cousins: How Our Family Stories Shape Us*, *The Hunter College Campus Schools for the Gifted*, and *A Boy I Once Knew: What a Teacher Learned from Her Student*. Her personal essays and reportage have appeared in *Chronicle of Higher Education*, the *New York Times*, *Smithsonian Magazine*, and elsewhere. She teaches at Fordham University.

Linda Underhill is the author of two collections of essays, *The Unequal Hours: Moments of Being in the Natural World* and *The Way of the Woods: Journeys through American Forests*. Her work has appeared in *Fourth Genre*, the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, and elsewhere. She teaches in the MFA program at Chatham University and at Corning Community College.



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A SYMPOSIUM CO-SPONSORED BY FORDHAM UNIVERSITY'S ENGLISH DEPARTMENT & CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAM

Saturday, April 24, 2010, Fordham University, Lincoln Center Campus

REGISTRATION FORM

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