Neltje Center for Excellence in Creativity and the Arts

CALL FOR WRITERS

Master Class with Gretel Ehrlich: May 14-20, 2023

PLACE. How landscape shapes our bodies, cultures and psyches.

Application Deadline: February 22, 2023 at 5pm MST
Notification to writers: March 10, 2023
Application Fee: $0

Cost to Participate: $2,500 for professional writers. Discount for University of Wyoming Alumni and students $1,500.

The University of Wyoming (UW) announces a call for writers to apply for a Master Class with poet and essayist Gretel Ehrlich, author of The Solace of Open Spaces, This Cold Heaven, Facing the Wave, and Unsolaced. The master class is a program of the university’s Neltje Center for Excellence in Creativity and the Arts.

Up to ten writers will be selected by Ms. Ehrlich to join her for a week of writing, discussion, workshops, and readings. Using PLACE as a starting point, the class will explore how landscape shapes our bodies, cultures, and psyches. Every writer will have the opportunity to sign up for individual time to meet with Ms. Ehrlich to discuss their work.

Ms. Ehrlich will provide a reading list and assignments to complete to prepare for the master class. Location and Dates: The master class will meet daily from 10-6pm at the Neltje Center in Banner, Wyoming. The center is the former home of Neltje, a visual artist and philanthropist, located on Highway 14 between Sheridan and Ucross.

Group discussions will take place indoors or on the patio, weather permitting. There is ample space to accommodate each writer in a private location within the home and adjacent studio spaces. Writers will identify a space within the home where they want to work during the week. The art-filled home has beautiful views of the Big Horn Mountains and gardens. There are many spaces to write, read, and relax.

Writers will arrive on Sunday, May 14th by 6pm and depart by 1pm on Saturday, May 20th. Writers will meet in Sheridan for a welcome dinner on the 14th.

Housing: Writers are responsible for their housing. There is no housing available at the Neltje Center.

Transportation: Writers are responsible for their transportation to Sheridan, WY. They may drive their own vehicles to the Neltje Center each day for the master class. Writers without cars will be transported in a group shuttle from Sheridan to the Neltje Center and back each day. There is no cost for the shuttle service.

Meals: Coffee, tea, and a light lunch will be provided daily. Vegetarian and vegan diets will be accommodated. Writers are responsible for their own breakfasts and dinners.
Master Class Fee: $2,500 for professional writers. University of Wyoming Alumni and students $1,500. This does not include housing or transportation to Sheridan, Wyoming.

Application Process: Writers submit a letter of interest explaining what the writer hopes to accomplish in the class and a writing sample to the Neltje Center. The writing sample includes one of the following: a book chapter, 20 pages of prose, or ten poems.

Email a PDF of the letter and writing sample to NeltjeCenter@uwyo.edu by 5 pm MST on February 22, 2023.

Gretel Ehrlich will review applications and select the students to participate in the class.

About Gretel Ehrlich:
Gretel Ehrlich is the author of more than 15 books of narrative essays, poetry, novels, stories, and travel, among them, THE SOLACE OF OPEN SPACES, UNSOLACED, A MATCH TO THE HEART, THIS COLD HEAVEN, THE FUTURE OF ICE, IN THE EMPIRE OF ICE, AND HEART MOUNTAIN. Her work about NW Japan after the tsunami, FACING THE WAVE, was longlisted for the National Book Award.

Gretel is the recipient of many awards and fellowships including a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Whiting Award, an NEA and an NEH, four Expedition Grants from National Geographic, the Henry David Thoreau Award from PEN, the award for nonfiction from PEN West, and an award from the American Academy of Arts and Sciences for distinguished prose.

She has been a rancher in northern Wyoming and an Arctic explorer, having spent 23 seasons traveling by dogsled with subsistence Inuit hunters in NW Greenland.

In November 2022, she was inducted into the National Cowgirl Hall of Fame in Ft Worth, Texas.

She travels widely and divides her time between ranches in Wyoming and Montana, and a farm in Hawaii.

For more: https://www.gretelehrlich.com/
About the Neltje Center:

The Neltje Center for Excellence in Creativity and the Arts (Neltje Center), is an initiative within the University of Wyoming’s College of Arts and Sciences engaged in instruction, creative activity, research, collaboration, and related service. The Neltje Center provides a platform to link higher education with the arts and humanities in one of the most scenic locations in the country. The Neltje Center will draw and recruit talented students, faculty, and artists to the University of Wyoming (UW) for an experience only Wyoming can provide. Importantly, it will connect the arts to other disciplines through partnerships, programming, and collaborations. The center is named after Neltje, a renowned painter and philanthropist who, in 2001, founded the Jentel Artist Residency.

The Neltje Center will include programming, educational opportunities, events, and workshops at the UW campus in Laramie, in the Sheridan region, and in coordination with the Jentel Artist Residency. Beyond these Locations, the Neltje Center is poised to create and support activities that are statewide, regional, national, and virtual.

Since its inception, Jentel has awarded fellowships to 835 visual artists and 418 writers from Wyoming, the Rocky Mountain region, and across the U.S. Many fellows have produced work during residency that subsequently received national recognition.

Neltje Center programming and the Jentel Artist Residency will provide opportunities for visual artists, writers, and performing artists to create, develop their practice, and expand their entrepreneurial skills. These opportunities will include residencies, workshops, and concerts as well as chances to engage with world-class artists, writers, and performers. Open to students as well as professional artists, these multifaceted experiences will help prepare students for successful careers in the creative economies of Wyoming and beyond.

http://www.uwyo.edu/as/neltje-center/

Questions: Email NeltjeCenter@uwyo.edu.