

AUSTIN 2 WRITING & PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP



A CREATIVE JOURNEY FOR BOTH WORK AND PLAY

September 25 – October 3, 2010

As working artists we've learned that the right conditions enhance the production of good art. Getting out of the daily routine, seeing with new eyes and being around others who are like-minded all feed the creative spirit, as does a well-balanced rhythm of exploration, time alone and communal feedback. So what better plan than to spend a week doing exactly just that with other creative types in Austin, that oasis of laid-back people and do-your-own-thing ambiance, deep in the heart of the beautiful and spare Texas Hill Country?

We've arranged a **combination of activities, professional assistance, feedback and downtime to accommodate a variety of individual pursuits in writing and/or photography.** Whether you're interested in (or dying to

try) creative writing or photo-journalism; if you're looking for rich, new territory to shoot; if you'd like to be paired with a partner or work alone, given assignments or discover at random, you'll have the opportunity to experiment in an urban environment that is artist-friendly, dense with material, and full of creative vibe. Besides, it would be difficult not to have a damn good time while you're at it.

Give yourself a week to experiment, experience, learn, interact, and just dwell in yourself. Remember we have experienced Austin and will be there to advise!

A Vacation for the spirit~ Not a treat but a Necessity!

COST: \$1200.00 per person

Price includes:

Accommodations based on double occupancy, all breakfast

Airport transport

Austin City Tour

Austin Music Tour:

Bat River Cruise:

Gospel Breakfast:

Not included: Airfare, tips, taxi rides, some entrance and cover charges, extensions

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Why Austin? At a time when most cities are becoming carbon copies of each other, with the same ubiquitous Starbucks and other chains on every street, Austin fights to retain its individual character and supports its quirky, artsy locals. "Keep Austin Weird" is the city motto, meaning keep Austin unique and free from lock-stepping conformity, which is exactly what every creative person must work to do. Sunny and Barbara found this originality and openness invigorating and energizing. Instead of living hip-deep with Type-A lawyers and lobbyists, imagine a week in the midst of a million others who understand the space, respect and encouragement that nurtures creativity. More than a city, it's a state of mind, one that's perfect for working artists or those who are artists in spirit.

Will I Find Something I'm Interested In? Unless you're in a coma during the entire trip, we can almost assure you that you will. A great wealth of visual subjects to photograph or use in your writing. Arranged access to the extensive Ransom archives. Historical sites. Beautiful countryside. Ghosts at the Driskill Hotel. Interesting people to interview for articles, background information or just plain inspiration. During our

scouting trip, we didn't run into anyone we didn't want to invite home for dinner and more conversation.

What's Included? Double-occupancy room on Lady Bird Lake, with its shoreline hike-and-bike trail and segway and kayak rentals available. Also, heated pool, fitness room, self-service laundry, high-speed wireless Internet Access, and the nicest bartenders in the city. Buffet breakfast each morning 6:30-9:30 weekdays and 7:00-11:00 weekends. Gospel brunch. City, Music and Bat tours. Transportation when scheduled in advance with the hotel. Conference room for workshops.

What's Available on Your Own? Easy airline connections from DC. Great restaurants in all price-ranges for lunch and dinner. Cheap taxi rides, in the \$5-8 range, though you can walk to many places. Inexpensive cover charges, usually between \$7-10, for the Blanton Museum and the music joints where you might like to hang out. Dance lessons at the Broken Spoke \$8.00, Day trips to unique and historic Hill Country towns like Gruene, Bastrop, Lost Pines and Fredericksburg. More free attractions that you can get to.

What's an Extension? For those with extra time and discretionary income who would like to stay longer or come early and explore, Sunny can help plan and arrange interesting, educational or just plain fun extensions. Ready to zone-out? Try the Lake Austin Resort and Spa or the Lakeway Resort and Spa on Lake Travis. Want to remember the Alamo? San Antonio with its string of missions and Riverwalk is little more than an hour away.

Day Itinerary

(Itinerary subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control, like acts of God.)

Saturday, September 25, 2010:

AM: Arrival at Austin-Bergstrom International Airport and check-in at the Austin Town Lake Holiday Inn located at 20 N. IH 35. Transportation provided with advance flight notice.

PM: 3:00: Getting-Our-Act-Together meeting to acquaint you with each others and give you the game plan, whether you're a writer or a photographer or working in both genres, by yourself or with a partner.

4:00: Tour of the city to give you an overview, the lay of the land and ideas about what you'd like to return to in more depth on your own – the South Congress or SoCo area, the 6th Street music corridor, the State Capitol, the UT-Austin campus, the Texas State Cemetery, the French Legation House, Austin City Limits set, Barton Springs, Zilker Botanical Gardens, the Hill Country during blue bonnet season, downtown, many other interesting neighborhoods, ranging from classy to funky, and much more.

Sunday, September 26, 2010:

AM: 11:00 the famous Stubb's Gospel Brunch, featuring the Original Bells of Joy, acclaimed as the best gospel singers in Texas. Buffet with make-your-own Bloody Mary

bar.

PM: 4:00 workshop to suggest how to use the city to your creative advantage, to answer questions, and to discuss a range of exercises to experiment with the rest of the week.

Monday, September 27, 2010:

AM: 11:00 meeting with curators of the Harry Ransom Center, one of the world's best cultural archives. They will be happy to talk about and/or pull for your examination any of the available 45 million items in the collection that you previously indicated you were interested in on your application form. Famous photographs to inspire writing and more photography, literary collections and memorabilia from a slew of major writers, art work by Frieda Kahlo et al and much more from this intellectual version of the Smithsonian. Great for contact with the best of the best that will help jump-start your own work.

Tuesday, September 28, 2010:

Go-where-you-wanna go, do-what-you-wanna-do day to explore, shoot, write, wander, stare, interview, meditate, sleep, play or whatever. Fabulous neon and street art. Top-of-the-line street people, including the glamorous Lesley. Let your spirit be your guide.

Some suggestions: Tour the Blanton Museum, with or without docent to show you around, or explore the Texas State Cemetery, where some of the tombstones have enough info carved on them for you to write a book about the dearly departed, or just stand on a street corner or at a bus stop and get to know the locals who are friendly, laid-back and interested in a variety of passions.

Wednesday, September 29, 2010:

AM: 10:00 workshop. Feedback on what you've done so far and ideas on what to do next.

PM: Tour of the famous venues that make Austin the Live Music Capitol of the World – from the Victory Grill, the Chitlin Circuit juke joint started for African-American vets returning from WWII during the Jim Crow period; to Antone's that brought the blues to Austin and where Stevie Ray Vaughan got his start; and on to The Continental Club and others.

An evening at the Broken Spoke, the last of the famous Texas honky-tonk joints where Willie Nelson still stops in now and again for the equally famous chicken-fried steak. Lessons in how to do the Texas two-step; live music, dancing...or just watching. You ain't seen nothing like this back East.

Thursday, September 30, 2010:

AM: 10:00 workshop, feedback and more ideas.

PM: Free to be.

Friday, October 1, 2010:

AM: 10:00 workshop.

PM: 7:00 Bat Cruise. See the 1.5 million of them that live under the Congress Street Bridge stream out for their evening insect hunt. Amazing. And not to worry – they have sonar and don't come near the humans. Afterwards, wander up South Congress for dinner, music and/or dessert from the famous Hey! Cupcake!

Saturday, October 2, 2010:

AM: Brief individual conferences to answer questions and prepare you to continue your work after you return to the “real” world.

PM: 4:00 Show and Tell. Share your best photos, read your best work. A Last Supper together, for those who wish.

Sunday, October 3, 2010:

Check-out by noon and, alas, our return to uptight, overstressed Washington, thousands of emails and other horrors.

Biographies

Sunny Reynolds

Background

Born in Syracuse, New York, **Sunny Reynolds** has lived in the Greater Washington area and Northern Virginia for the last 25 years. She was educated at Syracuse University, with classes in photography at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. She continued her artistic and technical education at professional workshops in the United States and Europe, and was a participant in the Aries International Photographic Workshop in Aries, France, and Maine photographic workshops for which intensive portfolio reviews were a prerequisite for admission.

Today, Sunny specializes in commercial and corporate advertising photography with travel photography as an additional channel. She also owns and manages a photography studio and gallery in the historical district of Warrenton, Virginia and teaches photography at all levels. Reynolds has been a consistent winner of awards for her photography. Nikon's International Contest, which attracted more than 38,000 entries from all over the world, honored Reynolds as one of 35 winners. Her photography was selected for the Nikon Calendar of the Year.

Sunny has traveled extensively, studying and photographing many cultures including Maasai Tribal women, Peruvian Indian weavers and Indonesian dock workers. The countries of Chile, Spain, Costa Rica, Guatemala, New Zealand and the Yucatan Peninsula also have been the subjects of her photo stories demonstrating her unique ability to work with people of many cultures and locations.

Sunny has an award-winning eye for light and design, and has perfected a variety of photographic techniques such as black and white hand painting. Ms. Reynolds is dedicated to the promotion of photography as fine art and continues to work with interior designers creating

imposing images for select residential and large corporate clients.

Additionally, Sunny leads and organizes adventure travel for small groups to Chile, Costa Rica, Peru and Tanzania The Galapagos Islands, India, Guatemala, and Morocco under her company Biotrek Adventure Travels L.L.C. Conceived in 1994, Biotrek Tours originated from the photographer's extensive professional travels worldwide.

Publications

Running Press, Courage Publications, **BOATS**: February 2002

Storey Publishing, Inc., **HARDIE NEWTON'S CELEBRATION OF FLOWERS**, 1997

Time-Life Books, **ANATOLIA: CAULDRONS OF CULTURES**, Lost Civilizations series, 1995

Clients *A Selection

Airlie Foundation * America's Cup * American Bank * American Psychological Association * Azure Records * Bath & Body Works * British Aerospace * Capital One * Castlerock Enterprises * Conde Nast Magazine * Continental Telecom * Country Living Magazine *The FAA * The Fauquier Bank* Fender Guitar * First American Bank * General Electric * Hazel Construction * Hearst Publishing * National Institute of Health * Nikon * Northern Virginia Magazine * McGraw Hill Publishing * Miller Brothers Construction* PW Campbell * Random House Publishing * Running Press Publishing * Smithsonian Institution * The George Washington University * The Washington Magazine * The Washington Post * Time Life * Trial Magazine * Wells Fargo *

Barbara Esstman

Background and Publications

Internationally published and nationally awarded author **Barbara Esstman**, BA, MFA, is the co-editor, with Virginia Hartman, of **A MORE PERFECT UNION: STORIES AND POEMS ABOUT THE MODERN WEDDING** (St. Martin's Press). She is also the author of **THE OTHER ANNA** and **NIGHT RIDE HOME**, both published in the US by Harcourt Brace and Harper Perennial and in numerous translations by Bertelsmann and other foreign presses. Both novels were adapted for TV film by Hallmark Productions, and **NIGHT RIDE HOME** was once a question on Jeopardy.

Her short stories and essays have appeared in Lear's and various literary magazines such as Confrontation, and the Pushcart Prizes and the REDBOOK Fiction Award have recognized them.

Her articles have appeared in the Washington Post, LA Times, and St. Louis Post-Dispatch, among others, and she writes travel PR copy for Biotrek Adventure Tours.

She is a NEA, VCCA and Maryland Commission for the Arts fellow. She teaches creative writing and creative non-fiction at universities and The Writer's Center in Bethesda, MD.

After visiting Austin this summer, her plans include retiring as a bag lady there – living in the stacks at the Harry Ransom Center and enjoying the city's meal program that includes both food and live music – while she finishes her next book.