

WRITE IN THE FRENCH LANDSCAPE THAT HAS INSPIRED ARTISTS FOR CENTURIES

# HOW I SEE IT: AUTOBIOGRAPHY IN IMPRESSIONIST POETRY AND PROSE

JULY 10 - 17, 2011 (8 DAYS, 7 NIGHTS)

\$2295 INCLUDES ALL INSTRUCTION, LODGING, AND SOME MEALS.

The Impressionist movement began with French painters of the late 1860s, who sought to capture the play of sunlight on landscape and objects via short strokes of unmixed pigment. Influenced by Monet, Sisley, Renoir, and Morisot--as well as by the newly growing field of psychoanalysis, which privileged subjectivity and the influence of emotion, memory, and sensory experience--many writers developed a style that strove to capture the impressions derived from it. No longer believing in an objective "reality," the writer finds truth by registering impressions or sensations.

In fiction, Virginia Woolf's *Mrs. Dalloway* and *To the Lighthouse* epitomize the Impressionist style of writing. Memoir, the genre most closely associated with recording individual experience, and autobiographical or post-confessional poetry, build upon the precedents of the Impressionists.

In this workshop, participants will use their experiences and sensory observations to create short autobiographical essays and poems influenced by Impressionist theory. Emphasis will be placed on experimenting with both style and structure to capture emotional and aesthetic accuracy and truth in writing. We will look at examples from both Impressionist visual art and literature, discussing as a group samples from historical and contemporary artists and writers including Woolf, Richard Selzer, Patricia Hampl, Elizabeth Bishop, and Maggie Nelson.

Participants will work individually through writing exercises and will then share their work in congenial and constructive group workshops. Jacqueline Kolosov will lead writers through poetry workshops, while Kirsten Lunstrum will lead creative nonfiction workshops. All participants will work in both genres, and our goal will be for each writer to complete polished drafts of 3 poems and one short autobiographical essay during the stay in France.

## DAILY YOGA PRACTICE

Jacqueline Kolosov will integrate a daily yoga practice into the workshop. Kolosov completed teacher training with Donna Farhi (2002) and has taught hatha and especially vinyasa-based yoga in a variety of contexts.



Jacqueline Kolosov is the author of *Modigliani's Muse* and *Vago*. She teaches creative writing at Texas Tech University. [Click here to visit her website.](#)

Photos of Garonne River in Auvillar: Karen Bell



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Kirsten Lunstrum is the author of *Swimming with Strangers* and *This Life She's Chosen*. She teaches creative writing at SUNY Purchase. [Click here to visit her website.](#)



## QUESTIONS?

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