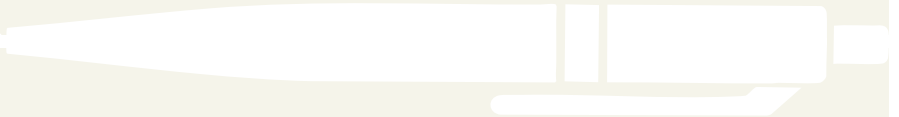


WRITING NEWSLETTER

WELCOME

WELCOME TO THE WRITING PROGRAM'S FALL 2026 NEWSLETTER. THIS IS OUR FIRST ISSUE, AND WE HOPE IT WILL HELP STUDENTS AND FACULTY STAY CONNECTED TO ALL THINGS WRITING.



YOU WILL FIND

- News about recent publications by Writing professors
- A list of readings and other writing events happening on campus
- Registration information for a master class on music writing on Thursday, October 8, and information about auditions for the Dead Poets Slam
- Information about the school's literary magazines, provided by senior Alex Rosenzweig
- Profiles of a few recent alums, produced by Theo Mays
- A list of events sponsored by the MFA program that are also open to undergraduate students

If you're concentrating in writing, or simply want to be more connected to the Writing program, email jmcdaniel@slc.edu and ask to be added to the mailing list. We will send periodic updates and information about events and other things happening on campus.

MASTER CLASS OPPORTUNITY

Master Class

Writing About Rock & Pop

Kevin Dettmar

Thursday / October 8th / 3 to 5 pm

Join Pomona College English professor and popular music writer Kevin Dettmar for a pop-up workshop on Writing About Rock & Pop. What makes the best music writing come alive on the page? How can you help a reader feel what it was like to hear what you've heard? We'll look at a couple of very short texts that do this well and then turn the bulk of our attention to one song that we'll listen to repeatedly, trying to capture its magic in our notebooks.

Kevin Dettmar has taught the workshop "Writing About Rock & Pop" at Pomona College for the past two decades. With Jonathan Lethem, he is the editor of *Shake It Up: Great American Writing on Rock and Pop from Elvis to Jay Z*. He has written about Radiohead, Blondie, Bob Dylan, Neil Young, Leonard Cohen, Eve Babitz, and others for *The Atlantic* and the *New Yorker*. His most recent book is *Punk in 50 Pieces: Punk, Post-Punk, New Wave, and the Five Years That Changed Pop Music Forever* (HarperCollins).

(limited to 15 students, email jmcdaniel@slc.edu to reserve your spot)

DEAD POETS SLAM AUDITIONS

Wednesday / September 30th / 6 pm

Thursday / October 1st / 7 pm

Andrews 104

If you have a love of both poetry and theater, consider joining the Dead Poets Slam, an engaging literary experience, where the poems of Dead Poets are presented in a theatrical context by a cast of Sarah Lawrence students and teachers. At the audition, you can present a poem or two by a dead poet or ask for a sample poem to prepare. There will also be some poems on hand. Email jmcdaniel@slc.edu if you have any questions. There will be weekly rehearsals leading up to the show, where participants will read poems out loud and consider ways to bring the poems to life in performance.

This year's performance, the **25th annual Dead Poets Slam**, will take place on Thursday, November 12th at 6 pm in Donnelley Theater in Heimbold. Food at 5:30 pm

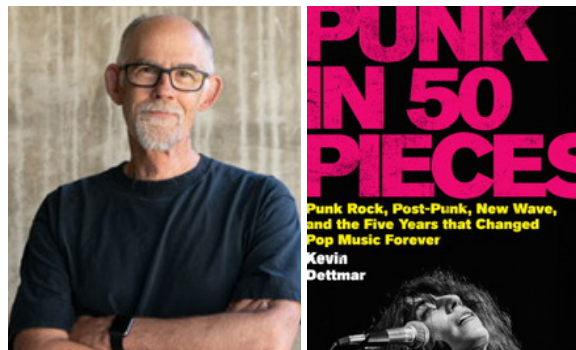
READINGS

Kevin Dettmar

Thursday / October 8th / 7 to 8 pm

Slonim House Living Room

Kevin Dettmar, with Jonathan Lethem, is the editor of *Shake It Up: Great American Writing on Rock and Pop from Elvis to Jay Z*. He has written about Radiohead, Blondie, Bob Dylan, Neil Young, Leonard Cohen, Eve Babitz, and others for *The Atlantic* and the *New Yorker*. His most recent book is *Punk in 50 Pieces: Punk, Post-Punk, New Wave, and the Five Years That Changed Pop Music Forever* (HarperCollins).



Karin Gottshall and Eve Alexander poetry reading

Thursday / October 22nd / 7 to 8 pm

Slonim House Living Room

Karin Gottshall is the author of two poetry collections: *The River Won't Hold You* (Ohio University Press, 2014) and *Crocus* (Fordham University Press, 2007), selected by Alberto Ríos as the winner of the 2006 Poets OutLoud Prize. She teaches at Middlebury College in Vermont.

Eve Alexander is the author of *The Drowned Girl*, which received The Stan and Tom Wick Poetry Prize, and *None of Us in White*, winner of the 2023 Two Sylvias Press Wilder Series Poetry Book Prize. She teaches at the University of Vermont.



READINGS (CONT.)

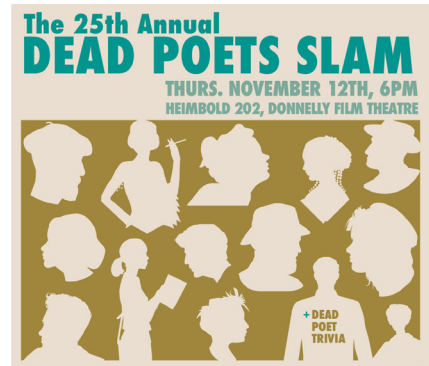
The 25th annual Dead Poets Slam

Thursday / November 12th / 6 pm

Donnelley Theater, Heimbald

Food will be served at 5:30

Enjoy an hour of engaging literary entertainment as a mixture of undergrads, MFA students and faculty bring to life the work of dead poets in a theatrical context. There will also be some dead poet trivia, with prizes, that could earn you five pages off a conference paper. Come have fun while experiencing poetry in an entirely different way. Hosted by Jeffrey McDaniel.



April Reynolds Mosolino, Stephen O'Connor, and Clifford Thompson

Read from their new books

Wednesday / November 18th / 7 pm

Donnelley Theater, Heimbald

April Reynolds Mosolino is the author of *The Shape of Dreams* (Knopf). Her first novel, *Knee-Deep in Wonder*, won the Zora Neale Hurston/Richard Wright Foundation Award and the PEN American Center: Beyond Margins Award.

Stephen O'Connor is the author of seven books, including two novels: *We Want So Much to Be Ourselves* (Bellevue Literary Press) and *Thomas Jefferson Dreams of Sally Hemings*. His fiction has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Harper's*, *Best American Short Stories*, and many other places. His story, *Ziggurat*, was read by Tim Curry on *Selected Shorts*.

Clifford Thompson is the author of *Jazz June: A Self-Portrait in Essays* (University of Georgia Press), a finalist for the PEN America award for the Art of the Essay. He is a 2013 winner of the Whiting Writers' Award for nonfiction. His work has appeared in *Best American Essays* and the *Pushcart Prize* anthology.

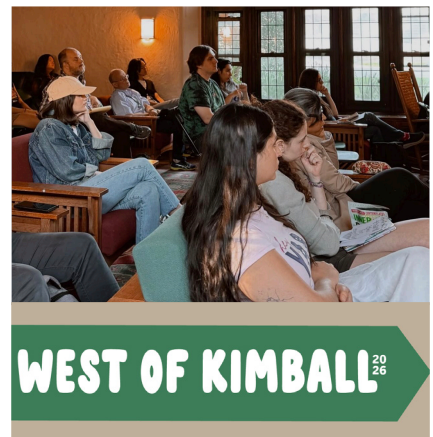


West of Kimball: an open mic for writers

Thursday / December 10th / 7 pm

Slonim House Living Room

Kick back, enjoy a slice of pizza, and listen to some of the work being written now in one of Sarah Lawrence's 26 undergraduate writing workshops this fall. All genres welcome. Email jmcdaniel@slc.edu if you're interested in reading a poem, or an excerpt from a story or essay. Hosted by Jeffrey McDaniel.



FACULTY NEWS & NOTES

Carolyn Ferrell's short story was selected by Viet Thanh Nguyen for inclusion in Best American Short Stories 2026

Marek Fuchs published an article, The State of the College Newspaper, in *Town and Country*.
<https://www.townandcountrymag.com/education-college/a73262635/college-newspaper-career-prep/>

Myra Goldberg received a Brooklyn Arts Council Grant for her texts and Lisa Wilde's paintings on six American historical figures and events to be placed this September on a fence by the Old Stone House for the 250th anniversary of the Battle of Brooklyn. She co-edited the English translation of the book *Three From Jerusalem*, by Arnost Lustig, a collection of stories, published in Czech and English by Masaryk University Press. <https://www.press.muni.cz/en/editorial-series-of-munipress/three-from-jerusalem> She wrote *Falling on my Face*, published in *Alte*.

Ann Hepperman was part of the team that created the Peabody Award-Winning audio series *Fela Kuti: Fear No Man*. <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/fela-kuti-fear-no-man/id1835735529>

Kyle McCarthy's second novel, *Immersion*, a retelling of the fairy tale 'Bluebeard,' was published by Tin House in May 2026. She will give a reading from the book for the Sarah Lawrence MFA Colloquium on November 19th. All are welcome!

Jeffrey McDaniel has poems forthcoming in the *American Poetry Review* and had poems published in *BODY* <https://www.bodyliterature.com/2026/07/16/jeffrey-mcdaniel-6/>. He did readings in Tallahassee, Los Feliz, Palo Alto, Reno, Santa Fe, Bethany College (Kansas), the Midwest rising Center, and was the keynote reader at the Ventura Poetry Festival.

Brian Morton published a short essay about liberalism in the newsletter of Writers for Democratic Action and a short essay about campus politics in the magazine *Fathom*. Any students who'd like to talk to him about the questions raised in those essays would be welcome to write to him at bmorton@sarahlawrence.edu. In January, his 2025 book *Writing as a Way of Life* was selected by *Poets & Writers* magazine for inclusion in its list of "Best Books for Writers." In April, his 2017 story "Tolstoy and God" was included in the anthology *The Pushcart Book of Twenty-First Century Poetry and Prose*.

April Reynolds Mosolino's novel, *The Shape of Dreams*, came out Feb. 2026 with Knopf.

Dennis Nurkse published poems in *The Nation*, *The New York Review of Books*, *The Hudson Review*, *The Threepenny Review*, and *Plume*. <https://www.nybooks.com/articles/2026/06/25/the-immortals-d-nurkse/>
<https://www.threepennyreview.com/a-city-with-no-name/>

FACULTY NEWS & NOTES (CONT.)

Stephen O'Connor's new novel, *WE WANT SO MUCH TO BE OURSELVES*, was reviewed in The New York Times <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/07/25/books/review/new-historical-fiction.html>. He was interviewed in Bomb Magazine: <https://bombmagazine.org/articles/2026/08/11/stephen-oconnor-by-melody-nixon/> and will be reading in the Hydra Reading Series at Von Bar (3 Bleecker Street) at 6:00 on Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2026.

Nelly Reifler's essay "Blue Spark" was republished at Electric Literature in three parts. She also curated and hosted the launch party for Division 26's first book, *Convergence*, which she edited. The launch party featured readings by Carolyn Ferrell and a Sarah Lawrence MFA alum, Molly McConnell, among others.

Domenica Ruta was interviewed recently. <https://memoirland.substack.com/p/the-memoir-land-author-questionnaire-5b8>

Joseph Earl Thomas has a forthcoming poetry collection from Graywolf: <https://www.instagram.com/p/DaOOz-7KmeT7/>. He published individual poems in *N+1* <https://www.nplusonemag.com/authors/thomas-joseph-earl/>; and Michelle Tea's *Clown Anthology* for MIT Press <https://mitpress.mit.edu/9781635902808/clowns/> and in *The Erotic Review*: <https://www.ermagazine.com/buy/issue-5> and has two poems coming out in the September issue of *Poetry*. Recently he was in conversation with Marlon James: <https://attend.cuyahogalibrary.org/event/16366817> and on Mississippi public radio: <https://shows.acast.com/its-lit-yall/episodes/its-lit-yall-joseph-earl-thomas-phd-aka-jet>

Clifford Thompson's novel *Let Us Go Then, You and I* comes out October 5, reviewed in Kirkus: <https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/clifford-thompson/let-us-go-then-you-and-i-Thompson/>. His book *Jazz June: A Self-Portrait in Essays* came out in October 2025 and was a finalist for the PEN/Diamonstein-Spielvogel Award for the Art of the Essay.

STUDENT PUBLICATIONS (by Alex Rosenzweig)

THE LITERARY REVIEW

First published in 1957 and coming out of a three-year hiatus in 2023, the Review currently stands as the longest-running student publication housed at Sarah Lawrence College. At its best, the Review serves as an accumulating archive of the earnest enthusiasm, political involvement, and artistic growth blooming at the margins of our community.

What it looks for: Polished, craft-driven work. The LR only accepts submissions in which authors demonstrate a mastery of the fundamentals of writing. Editors read submissions anonymously.

How often it prints: Once per academic year.

Events: Open mic nights, readings, generative writing sessions, and workshops. The Literary Review is focused on educational programming. Last year, this publication hosted several faculty readings and an "Intro to Publishing" panel in collaboration with Career Services.

Editors: Lit Review editors are Alex Rosenzweig, María Guzmán Sherenberg, and Ersá Eksioglu.

Contact: slcreview@gm.slc.edu

LOVE & SQUALOR

Started in 2017 as a literary magazine for "armchair artists," with a focus on fringe and hybrid work, Love & Squalor is a literary magazine run by and centering undergraduate students.

What it looks for: L&S platforms work that feels new, fresh, and urgent, often with an emphasis on unconventional form or literary experimentation. Editors read submissions anonymously.

How often it prints: Twice per academic year. Love & Squalor also publishes regularly on its website.

Events: One literary cabaret per semester. These events feature music, poetry, and dance, and offer a fringe space for fringe artists. Love & Squalor also hosts open mic nights and readings.

Editors: Love & Squalor editors are Victoria Rivera and Devan Wilson-Harper.

Contact: loveandsqualor@gm.slc.edu

DARK PHRASES

Dark Phrases is a student-run publication founded following a sit-in on campus in 1989, and honors the identities of students of color on campus by celebrating the joy in diversity.

What it looks for: Work must be from students, faculty, and staff of color. Editors read submissions anonymously.

How often it prints: Once per academic year. Dark Phrases also publishes regularly on its website.

Events: Open mic nights, readings, generative writing sessions, and workshops.

Editor: Dark Phrases editor is Kulsum Zaidi.

Contact: darkphrases@gm.slc.edu

STUDENT PUBLICATIONS (CONT.)

THE PHOENIX

The Phoenix is a non-profit, student-run newspaper representing the voices and opinions of Sarah Lawrence College community members.

What it looks for: Student journalism exclusively. Students not currently on their staff may email pitches for stories they would like to report.

How often it prints: More than twice per academic year. The Phoenix also publishes regularly on its website.

Submissions: Queries and submissions are accepted via email.

Contact: phoenix@gm.slc.edu

THE CROAKER

The Croaker is Sarah Lawrence's humor magazine and accepts submissions in all genres, so long as they might make someone laugh.

What it looks for: The Croaker publishes works that are humorous and witty, but they also accept anything whimsical, strange, or beyond the bounds of regular classifications. Creatives at all levels of skill are encouraged to send in their works.

How often it prints: Once per academic year in the spring. The Croaker also manages an editor-populated blog called The Bog.

Submissions: Queries and submissions are accepted via email and Google Form, which may be found on The Croaker website.

Co-Chair: Bee Dopulos
Contact: thecroaker@gm.slc.edu

THE GARDEN VARIETY

Created in 2023, The Garden Variety is an interdisciplinary zine created by and for Sarah Lawrence students and aims to embrace beauty in the mundane.

What it looks for: The GV publishes multimedia zines that focus on specific themes - often related to current issues and inspirations in the world around it. Their mailing list or Instagram account is a great way for Sarah Lawrence students to stay up to date on the latest issue's theme. Submissions are read anonymously.

How often it prints: Twice per semester.

Editors: GV editors are Adelaide Bracewell and Abbey Griffin.

Events: Zine launches and generative collage workshops. The Garden Variety encourages experimentation and play, with events centered around creation.

Contact: thegardenvariety@gm.slc.edu

SUBMISSIONS

All publications, with the exception of The Phoenix, accept poetry, fiction, narrative nonfiction, and visual art submissions. Some publications accept translations so long as the original work is credited. Applications will usually be in a Google Form. This is also true of submissions. The Croaker and the Phoenix are the only publications that ask for queries or submissions via email.

EDITOR APPLICATIONS

All publications hire editors in the fall. Editors will remain on their respective mastheads for the entire academic year. Editor applications typically go live at the beginning of September and are usually open until October 1. Though not true for every publication, prospective editors can generally expect to submit the following materials as part of their application:

- A writing sample
- A Google Form expressing interest
- An editorial assessment, participation in an interview, or both
- An optional résumé or CV

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Recent SLC Alums in the Wide Writerly World (by Theo Mays)

ALANA CRAIB '24

Alana graduated from Sarah Lawrence having concentrated in Creative Writing and Literary History. Shortly after, Alana was accepted into Brown University to pursue their MFA in Literary Arts, which they completed in the spring of 2026. Alana is a multi-genre writer whose work "is often concerned with matters of love, green burial, queer bodies, mothers and grandmothers, ghosts and memory, the kitchen, and the bog."

Now living and working in Providence, RI, they spent this past summer attending writing workshops with the Kenyon Review and the McCormack Writing Center. In the coming year, they plan to attend residencies at the Sundress Academy of the Arts and the Vermont Studio Center as they continue to revise a full-length manuscript which they began writing during their time at Brown. They will also continue serving as a prose reader for The Plentitudes Journal, an international literary magazine which curates work from diverse voices. You can read some of Alana's published works [here](#).



SPARROW MURRAY '24

Sparrow graduated from Sarah Lawrence having concentrated in poetry, art history, and visual arts. Since then, she has been figuring out how to actively integrate the creative, social, and professional spheres of a life centered around poetry. In summer of 2024, she began teaching poetry workshops through The Future Perfect Project, a national arts initiative that aims to amplify the voices of queer and trans youth through artistic programming and mentorships. For the past two years, Sparrow has supported herself by working directly for several independent artists and writers as an editor, fabricator, and personal assistant. In doing so, she has discovered the importance of not only cultivating a unique creative practice, but honing her administrative and logistical skills. She says, "My projects with Joel Sternfeld, Lesley Dill, Petah Coyne, Lili Taylor, Pádraig Ó Tuama, and others have informed critical developments in my thought and practice, and provided a kind of continuing education in the arts. These opportunities were made possible only through the instruction, support, and endorsement of Sarah Lawrence College faculty."

Now, she works as an assistant to Irish poet Pádraig Ó Tuama, editing and producing his podcast Poetry Unbound. She also recently began an editorial role at Ars Poetica, an agency known for their experiential typewriter poetry. In her personal writing practice, Sparrow has been focused on developing a single book-length poem, TOWARD, which catalogs the speaker's relationship with "The Word/You with perfect handwriting." This piece arose from a conversation between Sparrow and fellow SLC alum Jane Lockwood "on the implicit gendering of poetic forms, and how, in relegating ourselves to palatable half-page compositions of endlessly tightening image and syntax, [women and femmes have] denied ourselves risk, self-knowledge, and possibility." Looking forward, Sparrow will continue crafting the piece through an upcoming residency at The Hambidge Center, and she will present the poem alongside a conversation with Alice Quinn at Columbia University's School of the Arts. Four movements of TOWARD will appear in the October and November issues of the Brooklyn Rail. You can read and view some of Sparrow's interdisciplinary work on her website and in the Brooklyn Rail.



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Recent SLC Alums in the Wide Writerly World

JANE LOCKWOOD '24

After graduating from Sarah Lawrence, where she concentrated in creative writing and literature, Jane began teaching Humanities—an interdisciplinary class combining English literature and history—to 9th and 10th graders at Saint Benedict's Preparatory School. "In my two semesters there," she writes, "I was grateful in particular to teach Wilson's translation of *The Odyssey* to my ninth graders, and the Romantic poets to my 10th graders. I was so grateful to work with those young women on their analytical, critical, and creative skills through essays and creative writing assignments, among others!" In the fall of 2025, Jane began pursuing her MFA in Poetry at New York University, learning from such writers as Geoffrey Nutter, Matthew Rohrer, Catherine Barnett, and Garth Greenwell. In addition to her studies, Jane works as the Managing Editor of the *Washington Square Review*, the nationally distributed literary journal of NYU's graduate creative writing program. Now, as she begins her second and final year of the program, she says, "It has been an immense joy to be among so many kind, generous, and, of course, talented poets."

You can read Jane's work in *The Biscuit Hill* and *Cordite Poetry Review*. This fall, more of her work will appear in *Poet Lore* and *Amsterdam Review*. In the years since she graduated, the connections Jane made during her time in the Sarah Lawrence writing department have continued to provide her essential creative support. "Sparrow and I remain connected and dedicated to each other's work," she says. "After four years of workshops together at SLC, I cannot express what a gift it is to have each other as attentive, invested readers of each other's work, and mutual supporters of this absolutely ridiculous life path of being a poet."



THE MFA PROGRAM'S FALL 2026 EVENTS

READINGS, CRAFT TALKS & CONVERSATIONS OPEN TO UNDERGRADUATES

OCTOBER

Thurs., / Oct. 1 / 6–7 pm

Amanda Nadelberg

Poetry reading and Q&A | Slonim Living Room

Tues., / Oct. 6 / 2–3 pm

S. M. Hallow

Tips and Tricks for Chapter 1 | Donnelley Theatre

How do you introduce an invented world without overwhelming the reader?

Wed., / Oct. 7 / 2–3 pm

Tessa Hulls

Wilderness Is Not a Metaphor | Donnelley Theatre

Wed., / Oct. 14 / 2–3 pm

Ben Purkert

In (Passionate!) Defense of Adverbs | Donnelley Theatre

A faculty colloquium making the case for a much-maligned part of speech.

Thurs., / Oct. 15 / 2–3 pm

Ladan Osman

Poetry craft talk | Donnelley Theatre

Tues., / Oct. 20 / 2–3 pm

Dujie Tahat

Poetry craft talk | Slonim Living Room

Tues., / Oct. 27 / 2–3 pm

Bianca Stone

Poetry as Mapping the Human Cry | Donnelley Theatre

Wed., / Oct. 28 / 6–7 pm

Bianca Stone

Poetry reading and Q&A | Donnelley Theatre

Thurs., / Oct. 29 / 2–3 pm

Patricio Ferrari and Mónica de la Torre

Poetry and translation reading | Donnelley Theatre

A reading from Ferrari's *Mud Songs*, followed by a conversation about poetry in translation.

THE MFA PROGRAM'S FALL 2026 EVENTS

READINGS, CRAFT TALKS & CONVERSATIONS OPEN TO UNDERGRADUATES

NOVEMBER

Wed., / Nov. 4 / 6–7 pm

John Jeremiah Sullivan

Nonfiction reading and Q&A | Donnelley Theatre

Tues., / Nov. 10 / 2–3 pm

David Ryan and Harris Lahti (MFA '18)

A conversation on small presses | Donnelley Theatre

Two writers discuss publishing with independent presses.

Wed., / Nov. 11 / 6–7 pm

Clay McLeod Chapman ('00)

The Horrors Are Here: Writing Genre Fiction Today | Donnelley Theatre

A craft talk on drawing horror from personal fears and the everyday world.

Wed., / Nov. 18 / 2–3 pm

Jimin Han (MFA '98)

On Purpose and Pacing | Donnelley Theatre

A fiction craft talk about shaping time within sentences and across a longer work.

Thurs., / Nov. 19 / 2–3 pm

Kyle McCarthy

Fiction reading and Q&A | Donnelley Theatre

Hear from an undergraduate Writing faculty member whose new novel is Immersions.

Sat., / Nov. 21 / 4–8 pm

MFA Writing's 50th Anniversary Celebration

A reading by Jo Ann Beard, Marie Howe, and Joan Silber

Heimbold Visual Arts Center

DECEMBER

Wed., / Dec. 2 / 2–3 pm

Isle McElroy

The World of World | Donnelley Theatre

A fiction craft talk on building a world that feels alive beyond its main character.

Tues., / Dec. 8 / 2–3 pm

Sophie Lewis

Liking and Disliking Things with Improper Intensity | Donnelley Theatre

A nonfiction craft talk on writing about politics and culture from a position of strong feeling.

Thurs., / Dec. 10 / 2–3 pm

Lincoln Michel

Worldbuilding in This World and Others | Donnelley Theatre

A speculative fiction craft talk on making setting matter to story and character.